





## 'Suspect held' in Kuwaiti atrocity case, but family of victims seeks 'real justice'

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The family of two Lebanese men who were killed and a woman who was raped and shot in the head by a Kuwaiti officer immediately after the liberation of Kuwait in early 1991 is calling on the United States government to ensure that "real justice" is carried out in the case.

Naim Farhat, a Lebanese-born naturalised American citizen living in Santa Cruz, California, has written to the U.S. ambassador in Kuwait saying he had reliable information to believe that a suspect detained in Kuwait was the real culprit in the case involving his father, brother and sister, but voiced fears that Kuwaiti authorities could make a charade of the entire affair.

Mr. Farhat, whose father Ismail and brother Osama were shot dead and sister Naimat was raped but was rescued from death after being shot in the head on March 2, 1991, argues that the victimisation of his family members was ordered by the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry and, as such, "real justice" could not be expected in the case without close foreign monitoring.

"I have no faith that there is or will be any real justice as long as Kuwaiti officials are the sole investigators, prosecutors, judge and jury in our case," Mr. Farhat wrote Ambassador Edward Gnehm.

In the letter, dated April 6 and a copy of which was available to the Jordan Times, Mr. Farhat said that "the order to kill my family originated in the Ministry of Interior (of Kuwait), most likely by the minister himself... (who)... has made public statements on television... that the young Filipino women who had been brutally abused by the Kuwaiti elite were lying about the violence against them in order to receive higher wages..."

The case surfaced last year after Mr. Farhat vowed not to rest until justice was netted out

to the culprits in the affair involving his family members, who remained in Kuwait throughout the seven-month Iraqi occupation beginning in August 1990 but were victimised after the liberation of the emirate in February 1991.

According to Naimat Farhat, who now lives with her brother in California after undergoing brain surgery, a Kuwaiti officer came to the family home on March 2, 1991. He brandished a gun and forced Naimat to huddle her father and brother and then raped her. When he was finished, he shot Naimat in the head and then shot and killed the two men.

Naimat, left in blood to death, survived her injuries but part of her body is paralysed. But she could tell the story of what happened to her on that fateful day, when the U.S. and its allies were gleefully celebrating the rout of Iraq.

After initial denials, Kuwaiti authorities, coming under the fire of international media attention on the case sparked by a relentless campaign launched by Naim Farhat, confirmed the victim's version of the affair. But they pleaded helplessness saying the culprit could not be identified since hundreds of such incidents took place immediately after the liberation of Kuwait.

The recently announced arrest of the suspect, according to Mr. Farhat, "was triggered by a significant jump in media attention."

But, he added in the letter to Ambassador Gnehm, "I believe that there is a high probability that, in order to protect those in the chain of command who are associated with the assassin, a deal will be cut with the suspect to admit only to an isolated act unrelated to government orders..."

Mr. Farhat is demanding that the U.S. embassy in Kuwait closely monitor the developments in the case. The Farhat family has representatives in Kuwait to follow up on the case in addition to a lawyer retained under the recommendation of the Kuwaiti

Association to Defend Victims of War.

The Farhats have given the attorney a limited mandate: To file a case in Kuwait, monitor the proceedings and report direct to Naim and Naimat Farhat as well as the U.S. embassy. The lawyer is not authorised to take any decision related to the case without consulting the Farhats, and it indeed he does so then the power of attorney will be automatically revoked.

"If Kuwaiti procedures prove inadequate we are prepared to pursue our case under U.S. and international law, with the objective of obtaining full disclosure of all guilty parties, achieving full justice and securing appropriate reparations for the crimes against us by the Kuwaiti government," Mr. Farhat said.

Mr. Farhat has also written to the Lebanese ambassador in Kuwait requesting him to closely follow the case.

The Farhats are demanding: —The arrest, trial and punishment of all those responsible for "ordering" and executing the March 2, 1991, attacks on the Farhats; —The release of all retirement compensation due to Ismail Farhat, the father, and the payment of all costs involved in treating Naimat Farhat and maintaining her for the rest of her life, and cash compensation consistent with international human rights crimes; —Unrestricted and safe access to the graves of the Farhats in Kuwait and payment for the transfer of the remains to Lebanon; —A formal apology in writing from the Kuwaiti government; —Full compliance by Kuwait with all international norms and code of conduct in human rights; and —The release of all political prisoners in Kuwait.

In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Farhat said last week he was not seeking reparations for reparations sake but wanted to "achieve full and real justice for all those concerned and set

a precedent..." The Farhat case, according to former residents of Kuwait, was not an isolated affair but only one of hundreds, if not thousands, of incidents of atrocities and brutal attacks carried out by vengeful Kuwaitis in post-crisis Kuwait.

Many victims of the rampage of the Kuwaitis appear to have chosen to keep quiet about their ordeal, particularly rape cases, mainly because of shame and family honour.

But the Farhat case gained international media attention as a result of Naim Farhat's strong campaign and now it stands out as one of the most embarrassing to the Kuwaiti regime.

The New York-based Lawyers Committee for Human Rights sent a delegation to Kuwait in January and reported this month that "there are many factors which militate against respect for human rights in Kuwait," and said the regime "has exerted influence detrimental to the government being held accountable for its actions."

In its 61-page report, which included a close review of the Farhat case, the committee stated: "The months after liberation, during which martial law was enforced, were marked by severe violations of human rights perpetrated by Kuwaitis against primarily non-Kuwaiti Arabs."

"Although the government was able to bring this widespread lawlessness under control, although not until scores had lost their lives and tens of thousands had fled in fear, it has been unable, or unwilling, to identify and punish those responsible for the numerous documented acts of extrajudicial killing and torture."

"The knowledge that these criminals are still at large in Kuwait, some of them believed to be members of the security forces, casts a shadow not only over the human rights situation, but also over the prospects for achieving the rule of the law."

## Kuwaitis shower Bush with gifts

KUWAIT (Agencies) — In line with Arab tradition, former President George Bush was showered with gifts as he visited Kuwait to receive the thanks of a grateful country, hailed as the emirate's liberator.

The only gifts displayed to the public on television and in newspapers have been an antique Arabian door, crystal clocks, plaques and shields.

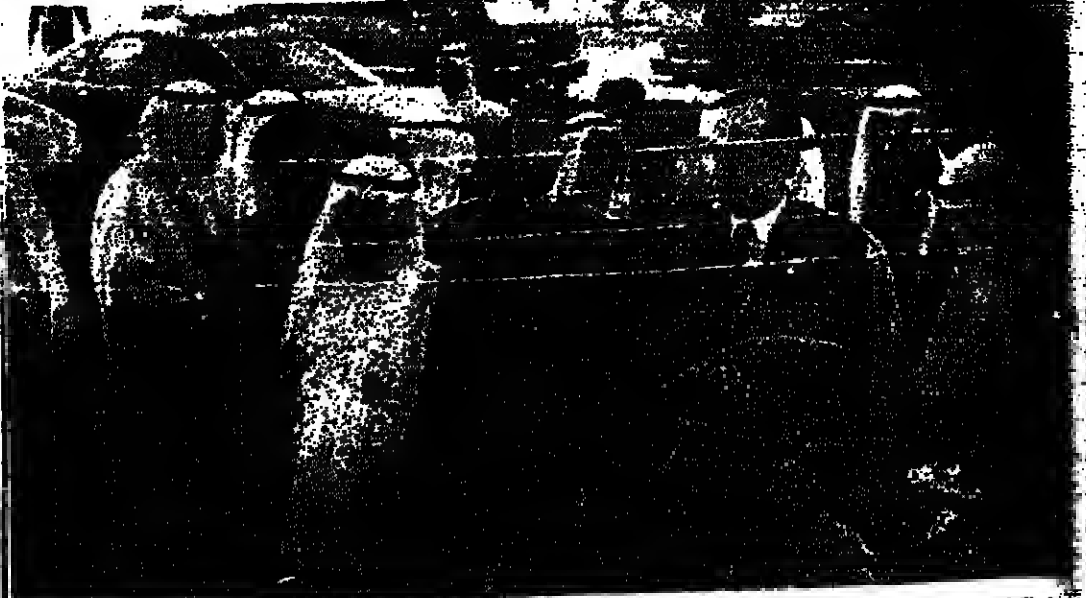
Normally, Arabs do not announce personal gifts so details are hard to come by.

They most elaborate gifts would be from the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Abdullah Al Sabah and a parade of rich merchants and members of the royal family.

The Bush visit also has cost the government a large sum — to pay for extravagant decorations in squares and boulevards and a specially furnished Boeing 727 jetliner at the disposal of the former president, his family and friends.

There has been no mention in the media of any expensive gifts such as gold swords, diamond-studded daggers and the like.

But a frustrated newspaper columnist insisted he had heard about



Former U.S. President George Bush waves as he is on the way to attend a special session of the Kuwaiti parliament accompanied by (at left foreground) Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah (AFP photo).

plans to give valuable gifts to the former U.S. president, and he complained this went beyond the requirements of tradition.

"Gifts to men like Bush are supposed to be mere souvenirs, gifts that have to do with the nature of life in Kuwait and its history," wrote the widely read Mubammad Mousaad Al Sabah in the mass-circulation Al Qabas.

"Such symbolic gifts would please Mr. Bush and the delegation accompanying him. But what we hear about the gifts in store for Bush seem to transcend this

concept. The value accorded to these gifts rests on high price. One gift that has been displayed is the arabesque door, bordered on two sides with the inscribed names of "American martyrs" — soldiers killed in the course of the U.S.-led Operations Desert Storm that ousted Iraqi forces from the emirate.

Other gifts were more outlandish. One merchant donated 96 bottles of imported perfume, asking that it be sprayed along the route of Mr. Bush's motorcade. A

Kuwaiti bedouin offered a prize racing camel and a businesswoman volunteered to pay for shipping the beast to the United States.

One touching gift came from the wife of a former prisoner of war — a key chain and a string of worry beads her husband made in captivity.

U.S. officials and members of the Bush entourage have not discussed the gifts. Had he still been president, Mr. Bush would have been barred from accepting anything more than token presents under federal law.

## Closure hurts Israelis and Palestinians — expert

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The closure of the West Bank and Gaza by the Israeli government is hurting both the Palestinian and Israeli economies, an expert on Israeli labour practices says.

The economic pressures brought on by the closure and loss of Palestinian workers inside Israel will soon lead to a re-opening of the borders, said Amira Hass, an Israeli journalist and volunteer for Workers' Hotline, a non-profit Israeli organisation dedicated to the protection of workers' rights.

Israel sealed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip at the end of March after a series of Palestinian attacks against Israelis. Ms. Hass reviewed the current situation during an April 14 briefing sponsored by the Centre for Policy Analysis on Palestine.

"As a whole the Israeli economy can function without the Palestinians," Ms. Hass said, "noting that Palestinians make up only seven per cent of the Israeli work force."

However, "in the short run, Israeli employers do depend on Palestinians," Ms. Hass said. "Many employers feel they can't do without the Palestinians," particularly in the agriculture and construction fields, she pointed out.

"These short-term market constraints will force Israel to ease or lift the closure," she asserted. Ms. Hass said "many Israeli politicians realise that it is dangerous to close off the occupation territories completely." The economy of the occupied territories is dependent on the Israeli economy, she said.

"One-third of the Palestinian labour force is dependent on work opportunities in Israel," Ms. Hass said. There is also shortage of land for development by Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, with 40 per cent to 60 per cent of the land designated as

state-owned, she added. Israel "can't close the territories, on the one hand, and keep the economy stagnant, on the other," she said.

"Palestinians should have a right to work in Israel as long as it is in control of the territories" and "as long as there are no job opportunities in the territories," Ms. Hass said.

Ms. Hass said the Rabin government had closed off the West Bank and Gaza as one way of pressuring the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks to return to the negotiating table. In doing so, the Israeli government is holding the Palestinian right of Palestinians to work "hostage" to its policies, she asserted.

Ms. Hass added that the closure of the occupied territories is also an attempt by the Rabin government to ease the panic many Israelis felt after a recent

series of attacks on Israelis by Palestinians. "The panic in Israel was very authentic," she stressed.

Ms. Hass said Palestinian workers — both registered and unregistered — are not treated equally in Israel, even though Israeli law stipulates Palestinians "are entitled to the same rights and conditions as Israeli workers."

"The problem is not about law," she said. "The problem is about application." Ms. Hass said Palestinian workers are routinely denied unemployment fees, receive lesser pensions than Israeli workers get, and often get paid below the minimum wage.

Established three and a half years ago, Workers' Hotline has reached thousands of Palestinian workers, informing them of their rights under the law, arbitrating disputes with employers, and advising workers during court proceedings, Ms. Hass said.

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## 'No new pyramid chamber'

CAIRO (R) — A German archaeologist denied a report Friday that a burial chamber which might hold untold treasures had been discovered deep inside Egypt's Great Pyramid of Cheops.

Rainer Stadelmann said a team of archaeologists, using a robot, had found a long passage leading from a chamber in the centre of the pyramid.

But the passage was for the soul of the dead pharaoh to pass from the chamber into the sky and the afterlife, he said.

It was too small for humans even to crawl through, said Mr. Stadelmann, who is director of German Archaeological Institute in Cairo.

Britain's Independent newspaper said the team had found a secret chamber which some experts believed might contain the mummy of the Pharaoh Cheops and treasures "every bit as stunning as that of Tutankhamen's."

"I don't know how this story happened but I can tell you this is very annoying," Mr. Stadelmann told Reuters by telephone.

The passage was previously thought to be eight metres long but the robot climbed 60 metres along the passage before coming to a stone blocking the way.

The independent said the stone covered the entrance to the secret chamber. But Mr. Stadelmann said since the passage was a "model" never designed for human use such a stone was not unusual. It did not conceal any chamber, he said.

"There is surely no other chamber," he added. "This passage has never been used or seen by humans."

The pharaoh's burial chamber was looted about 2,000 B.C., 700 years after his death, although his mummy survived until the Middle Ages, Mr. Stadelmann said.

He said there had never been any treasures found in the pyramids, unlike burial chambers in the Valley of the Kings at Luxor.

## U.S. envoy sees progress at Mideast peace talks

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The U.S. ambassador to Israel said Friday he was "optimistic" that the ninth round of Middle East peace talks due to start in Washington Tuesday would lead to progress.

"I don't believe that we are going to see any peace treaty signed in the next month, of course not," Ambassador William Harrop told Israel Radio.

"But I think that we are going to begin to see progress and I think there is every reason to be optimistic that will take place."

The foreign ministers of Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Palestinian representatives were expected to announce a return to the bilateral peace negotiations after a four-month delay when they meet in Damascus Friday and Saturday.

The talks broke up on Dec. 17 over Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians to southern Lebanon. The Palestinians have slowly pulled back first from demands that all the expellees must be brought back and then that a solution to the crisis must be found before they will resume the peace talks.

Mr. Harrop said: "The deportees will all be back by the middle of December of this year and this really will be in direct accord with United Nations Resolution 799."

Israel agreed in February to let 101 of the expellees come back immediately and the remainder by the end of the year under an accord with Washington.

Washington pledged to halt a threat of U.N. sanctions for failing to obey Security Council Resolution 799, which called for an immediate return, and to work to get the peace negotiations back on track.

"We've not felt any need to press Israel beyond that point and we have not really done so," Mr. Harrop added.

Israeli Government sources say Israel is ready to make a series of "concessions" to the Palestinians. Israel has agreed for example to allow the leading Palestinian from the occupied territories, Faisal Hussein, to join the official Palestinian delegation.

In an interview from Washington, Israel's Ambassador Itamar Rahinovitch told the radio that the fact that Mr. Hussein lives in Arab East Jerusalem did not imply the status of Jerusalem was negotiable.

"Absolutely not," he said. "His probable participation is part of a policy to strengthen the (Palestinian) delegation's position, to give it some muscle, to allow the talks to concentrate on more concrete issues."

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## Sudanese exiles seek to stop talks

CAIRO (R) — Exiled opponents of Sudan's Islamic government flew to Kenya Friday to try to persuade southern rebels to boycott talks aimed at ending 10 years of civil war.

The group of Sudanese politicians, in Cairo since a military coup ousted Sudan's last democratic government in 1989, said the hard-pressed, autonymy-seeking rebels should not go to the peace talks scheduled for April 26 in Nigeria.

"The delegation will affirm its fixed position. There is no dialogue and no reconciliation with the Islamic front and its government," said Farouk Abu Isa, a member of the group and chairman of an Arab lawyers' association based in Cairo.

"Any dialogue or (peace) agreement has no value or future," Mr. Abu Isa said the Sudanese National Democratic Forum, a coalition of some of the parties banned by Khartoum, would meet leaders of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in Nairobi.

The Sudanese government faces growing international isolation following allegations of human rights abuses and support for Muslim fundamentalist guerrillas.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 775111-19	
<b>PROGRAMME TWO</b>	
18:00	Les Aventures de L'espace
18:30	Envoyé Spécial
19:00	News in French
19:15	Fenêtre sur
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Super Bloops
21:00	Perspectives
21:30	Saturday Variety Show
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature Film: "Willing to kill"
PRAYER TIMES	
04:40	Fajr
06:01	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:35	Dhuhr
19:10	'Asr
20:51	Maghreb
20:19	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweetfish, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590, Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Teresian Church Tel. 622666	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 63541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 638543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623834, 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675491	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
The kingdom will remain under the khamasini weather conditions. Therefore, it will be hot, dry and dusty, with some medium and high clouds covering the sky during daytime. Winds will be southerly to southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be southerly moderate and seas rough.	
Amman	Min./Max. temp. 15 / 33
Aqaba	22 / 40
Deserts	15 / 36
Jordan Valley	15 / 38
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Aqaba 40. Humidity readings: Amman 13 per cent, Aqaba 10 per cent.	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Ahmad Youssef	786384
Dr. Mohammad Imran	612232
Dr. Walid Kiewani	(—)
Dr. Abbas Hakem	885446
Fires pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Nasrallah pharmacy	623672
Al Salem pharmacy	636730
Yasoub pharmacy	644945
Shamsi pharmacy	637660
Najib pharmacy	847632
IRBID:	
Dr. Ayman Sheikhia	(—)
Al Quds Pharmacy	(—)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Hisham Sharabati	(—)
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Rescue	611111
Civil Defence Emergency	630341
Civil Defence Department	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	612228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630221
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	610230
Central Amman Telephone	
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repair	661101
Army, Marine	77511226
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	515615
Electric Power	636381
Company	06-53200
RJ Flight Information	06-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport	06-53200
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hassan Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	642816
Alkhalid Maternity, J. Amn.	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Mallouk, J. Amman	635140
Malouk, Shamsi	661714
Shamsi Hospital	669131
University Hospital	843845
Al-Musafir Hospital	667227
The Islamic, Abdali	66512737
Al-Ahli, Abdali	6641646
IRBID:	
Al-Mohajra	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Asrafiah	77511226
Al-Bashir, J. Asrafiah	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
Rn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al Hikam Modern Hospital	(09)909090
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal	

Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

## ARRIVALS

### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:30	Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)
08:15	Dhaka (RJ)
08:15	Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
09:45	New Delhi (RJ)
10:30	Karachi, Dhaka (RJ)
11:15	Beirut (RJ)
11:45	Colombo (RJ)
12:45	Cairo (RJ)
13:30	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
15:30	London, Berlin (RJ)
19:25	Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
19:30	Bangkok (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

18:30	Sanaa (YV)
19:45	Larnaca (CY)
20:00	Dubai, Damascus (EM)
21:45	Paris, Damascus (AF)

## DEPARTURES

### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:15	Beirut (RJ)
12:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:45	Paris, Brussels (RJ)
12:50	Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
13:45	Cairo (RJ)

21:30	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:30	Jeddah (RJ)
23:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

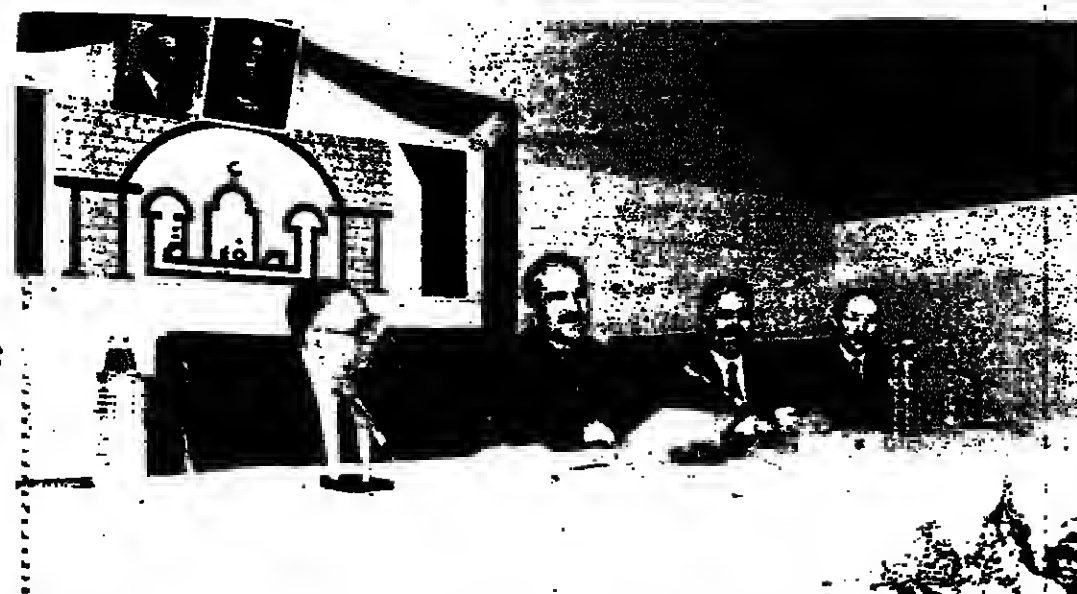
### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:45	Larnaca (CY)
09:15	Beirut (ME)
11:30	Sanaa (YV)
21:45	Dubai (EM)
23:45	Damascus, Paris (AF)

## MARKET PRICES

<i>Up/price/lower price in fcs per lb</i>	
Apple	700 / 700
Banana	680 / 680
Banana (Mukammam)	620 / 620
Bone	540 / 450
Cabbage	70 / 40
Carrot	150 / 150
Cauliflower	250 / 180
Cucumbers (large)	120 / 80
Cucumbers (small)	240 / 180
Eggplant	300 / 180
Garlic	260 / 200
Gracifruit	240 / 180
Lemon	380 / 300
Marrow (large)	90 / 50
Marrow (small)	150 / 100
Mint	80
Onion (dry)	230 / 160
Onion (green)	280 / 180
Orange	600 / 280
Pepper (hot)	480 / 530
Pepper (sweet)	200 / 150
Potato	210 / 160
Tomato	520 / 300
Spinach	250 / 200





His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday holds an open dialogue with citizens of Tafleeh Governorate. The Crown Prince is accompanied by Minister of Interior Jawdat Al Shoul (left), Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat (second from right) and Tafleeh Governor Mohammad Al Talhoumi (right) (Petra photo)

## Crown Prince inspects Tafleeh area

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday said local executive, consultative and development bodies play a major role in addressing the problems, and needs of local councils.

Speaking at an open dialogue meeting with citizens and Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament members in Tafleeh, Prince Hassan stressed the importance of defining priorities of work and dealing with them within a team spirit if growth and development are to be achieved.

He pointed to the consultative council, formed in Tafleeh governorate, saying it can play an important role in solving problems, defining priorities and discussing needs.

The Crown Prince said the council includes the governor, members of both Houses of Parliament and representatives of local councils.

As part of his tour in Tafleeh governorate, Prince Hassan met with citizens from the village.

Prince Hassan also visited the tomb of Al Hareth Ben Omar (one of the companions of Prophet Mohammad) and called for its restoration.

He inspected the Princess Basma Social Services Centre in Tafleeh, the supply warehouses and the Tafleeh Sports and Cultural Club, and was briefed on the services offered by these centres to citizens.

The Crown Prince visited Prince Zeid Ibn Al Hussein hospital, inspected its various sections and was briefed on its services.

He also visited some patients and listened to their views on the standard of health care offered to them.

Patients said the hospital lacks a renal dialysis unit, an orthopaedic centre and a special section for the treatment of urinary tract ailments.

The hospital has a capacity of 120 beds, but can be expanded to accommodate 212 patients.

Tafleeh Governor Mohammad Al Talhoumi reviewed the achievements of the government departments in the governorate, as well as their current and future plans.

He said 97 per cent of Tafleeh governorate is electrified and most residential areas receive water and telephone services.

Mr. Talhoumi pointed out that the governorate's budget for 1993 includes an allocation of JD 2,456,000 for educational projects, JD 340,000 for health projects, JD 1,700,000 for public works and housing, JD 400,000 for the establishment of a vocational training centre, JD 290,000 for constructing boundary walls, in addition to other allocations.

Tafleeh deputies Abdullah Al Akaleh and Ibrahim Al Ghababshah reviewed the needs of the governorate, calling for turning it into a centre of attraction and development for citizens.

They also called for addressing the problems of poverty and unemployment and stressed the need for maintaining the infrastructure, establishing tourist projects, and solving the pollution problems resulting from the dust emanating from the Rashidieh cement factories.

Prince Hassan was accompanied on the tour by Interior Minister Jawdat Al Shoul and Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat.

## 3,000 silent marchers commemorate Palestinian land, prisoner's days

By Sausan Ghosheh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At least 3,000 people turned out in a silent march Friday commemorating Palestinian Land Day, March 30, and Palestinian Prisoner's Day, April 16.

The march, organised by the Women's Committee, part of the Jordanian Popular Committee for the Support of the Intifada, was described by participants as a symbol of their support for the resistance of the Palestinian people in the face of the Israeli occupation.

One of the organisers, Haifa Al Basheer, said the march "shows the solidarity of the Jordanian people with their Palestinian brethren, insisting upon their steadfastness."

The march, according to its organisers, has its political and material goals.

Politically, it aims at reminding Jordanians of the situation in the occupied territories and ensuring their Palestinian brethren that "they are not alone."

Wafiyeh Al Bargouti, a participant in the march, said the "assembling of a significant number of people coming from all aspects of life will boost the morale of our families in the occupied territories." She added that "this march is a form of

resistance, and resistance, no matter how small, is what is important."

"The march is an indication that there are those who share in their hopes and pains... that there are others who want to see an end to the Israeli occupation and to see Palestinians living freely on their land," Ms. Basheer added.

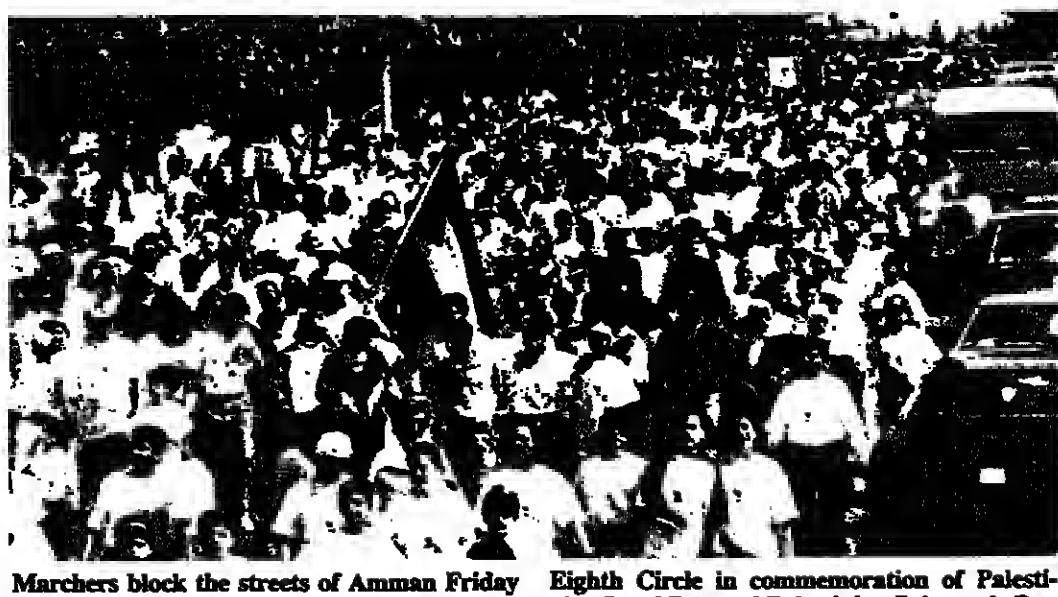
Organisers targeted the public and private schools and focused on the participation of the younger generation to increase national awareness and to develop feelings of national belonging among children.

A nine-year-old marcher, Reem Abdul Hamid, said: "I joined the march to support the intifada, and so that the deportees return to their homes... so that I can return to Palestine."

Proceeds of the march will benefit martyr and injured families, said Aisha Odeh, one of the organisers.

Ms. Odeh, a Palestinian deportee since 1979, said the Women's Committee expects to raise more than JD 40,000 from this event.

Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Haya, who was unable to attend and delegated Minister of Social Development Amin Awad Mashagbeh to attend on her behalf, the march started at the Professional Association Complex in Shmeisani and ended at the Royal Auto-



Marchers block the streets of Amman Friday in a silent procession from Shmeisani to the Eighth Circle in commemoration of Palestinian Land Day and Palestinian Prisoner's Day (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

mobile Club at the Eighth Circle. Thousands of people, mostly sporting white T-shirts embossed with words and a symbol commemorating the nearly five and a half year uprising, blocked some of the main streets in Amman.

Although the march was supposed to be silent, some of the youth tried to chant slogans, while others carried music boxes bursting with loud music.

But both groups were stopped

by the organisers and for the most part the march was silent. When asked why they decided to hold a silent march, Ms. Basheer said: "Our motto is silence and silence is more eloquent than words."

At the Royal Automobile Club, Al Hanounah dabkeh and singing group waited to entertain the marchers with their political and cultural songs and dances.

But, after the first dance, a

power failure prevented the group from continuing its performance.

Some participants felt that the power failure was a deliberate measure by the intelligence service to calm the rousing emotions of the audience.

But, a few of the remaining participants began to sing and dance, unaffected by the power outage.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Sharif Zaid receives JD 15,000 for Peoples Army

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker Thursday received a cheque in the amount of JD 15,000 as a donation from Zarga Chamber of Commerce to Peoples Army. The cheque was handed to Sharif Zaid by President of Zarga Chamber of Commerce Ibrahim Tajeddin, who called at the Prime Minister's office, together with members of the chamber's board. Sharif Zaid expressed appreciation and gratitude to Zarga citizens and the chamber for their initiative and true belonging. The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Ibrahim Izzeddin.

#### Arabyat highlights Jordan's democracy in India

AMMAN (J.T.) — In his address to the International Parliament Union meeting in New Delhi, Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabyat stressed "the importance of the building of the state of law and institutions; the vitality of constructive dialogue; and hearing various opinions. The speaker said Jordan resumed its "democratic march in confident steps and vivid vision," which makes it "confident of its future, results and fruits," adding that "it will be a healthy model of participation and political plurality." Dr. Arabyat said the adoption of several bills on public freedoms have become an integral part of Jordan's political life and democratic path.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Art exhibition entitled "The Legend of Petra II" by artist Suha Shoman at the National Gallery for Fine Arts.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Recreation" by Jordanian, French and Iraqi artists, inspired by a sculpture by Iraqi artist Mohammad Hussein Abdullah, at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Samia Al Zaru and Adnan Yahya at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Syrian Artist Lajaina Al Asel at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of books and educational facilities at the International Expo Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of prints, entitled "Architectural Motifs from the Arab World," by Rima Farah at the gallery, Hotel Jordan.
- ★ Arabic play entitled "The Dawn and Sunset of a Girl Called Yasmin" at 7 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

## Jordanian, Egyptian businessmen pledge promotion of trade, cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Jordanian and Egyptian Businessmen pledged to exert serious efforts to promote Jordanian-Egyptian trade and economic cooperation, according to a statement Thursday evening.

The statement, issued one day following the end of the council's two-day meeting, said the businessmen will work towards launching joint ventures to help promote the marketing of national products in the neighbouring Arab countries.

The meeting called on the concerned authorities in Cairo and Amman to remove customs barriers impeding the flow of products between Jordan and Egypt on equitable and reciprocal bases and called for the stimulation of the work and activities of the two countries' trade centres operating in Cairo and Amman.

These trade centres should be able to sell directly to the public and ought to have their quotas increased annually, said the statement.

The businessmen, who decided to form a standing joint committee to follow up on the implementation of recommendations and decisions, stressed their determination to exchange information on trade visits by delegations and to examine areas where joint ventures can be initiated.

The two sides called on their governments to allow trucks from Egypt and Jordan to move freely in transit operations in each other's territories.

They also called on travel agencies to stimulate activities and promote tourist exchanges through special group rate offers for hotel accommodations and air fares.

On the last day of their stay in Amman, the Egyptian businessmen visited Sahab Industrial City.

## 100 plus companies prepare largest exhibition to honour King

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — More than one hundred companies will participate in the largest exhibition to be held in Jordan next month to celebrate the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional powers.

The exhibition, which will take place on May 2, will display photos reflecting Jordan's history and development before and after the King assumed his constitutional powers.

It will highlight the various historical stages of the Kingdom's development "from a weak and colonised country headed by foreign leaders, to a self-dignified country that had the courage to say 'no' to superpower countries," said retired Brigadier General Saleem Qudah at a press conference Wednesday, held at the Chamber of Industry.

"We have a certain obligation towards our beloved King," said Mr. Qudah who is the director of the General Corporation for Export Development (GCEED), the company organising the event.

"We have to meet the King's love and giving with more love and more giving to recompense as much we can for what he has done for us."

Private and public companies will participate in the week-long exhibition which will be attended by prominent personalities and senior officials.

It will focus mainly on the educational development in Jordan and the progress of the Armed Forces over the last 40 years.

"We want to point out that a successful country is not measured by its factories and its money, but by its stability and security: symbols of the Hashemite Kingdom," Mr. Qudah said.

## U.N. embargo enforcers step up search of Aqaba bound ships

By Eila Nagallah  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Western warships patrolling the Red Sea for contraband in possible violation of a U.N. embargo on Iraq have recently stepped up their activities in the Straits of Tiran and turned back two cargo vessels with goods bound for Jordan via the Port of Aqaba, according to a spokesman for Gargour Shipping Agents in Amman.

The spokesman told the Jordan Times Friday that on April 7, the embargo enforcers intercepted the Sudanese vessel Al Abiad, which was carrying 2,700 tonnes of various kinds of merchandise from Europe to Aqaba and refused to allow it to proceed to the Jordanian port.

The embargo enforcers ordered the vessel to discharge its 50 containers in other ports along the Red Sea, under the pretext that the naval officers were not able to reach and search all packages on board the vessel, said the spokesman.

He said it was impractical for every single package to be searched.

Gargour Shipping Agents had appealed to the concerned authorities at the Port of Aqaba to ensure the arrival of the vessel on schedule, but efforts were unsuccessful because the naval forces persisted that the vessel should unload its cargo elsewhere.

Following a delay of four days, the vessel was forced to head for Port Sudan to unload part of its cargo before heading once again towards Aqaba, which it should reach in the coming week, provided there are no further interceptions, noted the spokesman.

In another incident on April 14, the Norwegian vessel Windfield, carrying paper for Jordanian newspapers and magazines, was intercepted at the Strait of Tiran and prevented from proceeding to Aqaba to unload its 5,624 tonnes cargo.

He said the U.S.-led naval forces insisted that each roll of paper on board the vessel, be searched, something which the ship's captain found impossible to do and therefore the ship was forced to turn to Jeddah Port in Saudi Arabia where the cargo is to be discharged.

Sufian Mheissen, director of the Jordan Shipping Agents Association, said in a statement to Reuters last month that only cruise ships heading to Aqaba will not be searched, but all those carrying goods to be unloaded at Aqaba will remain under strict inspection.

He said Jordan incurs heavy losses as a result of the turning away of ships from the country's only port.

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## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

## Creative construction

IT IS estimated that no less than \$4 billion was invested in real estate in the 1990-92 period. While some of the money that went into stones, concrete and iron could be justified for legitimate reasons connected with sudden and unexpected population growth, much of the dinars that were spent on construction may not have been economically sound since it meant the diversion of urgently needed funds from industrial projects that could have generated employment to the increasing numbers of unemployed Jordanians. No wonder many economists have concluded that despite the hyper-construction activities in the country, the overall Jordanian economic picture shows that it is still stricken by a serious recession.

Real estate experts in the Kingdom have identified five major real estate cycles that have hit the country: 1952-1967, 1967-71, 1972-83, 1984-1989 and finally 1990-92. Each period was characterised by its own peculiar conditions and circumstances. Still these off-and-on cycles suggest that there is a pattern in Jordanian psychology when it comes to building houses or apartment buildings. By and large, the return to construction is often motivated by a make-believe economic psychology that views housing as good investment and a haven against not only inflation but also against insecurity about the future. Jordanians appear to be still locked into a tradition that they cannot seem to be able to break away from, even when pure economic considerations would point to other more viable alternatives. Industrialisation in the Kingdom was hit hard in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis especially when Jordanian exporters of Jordanian finished products saw how fast their export markets in the Middle East could dissipate into thin air. The shock waves of the Gulf conflict have obviously put a damper on further investment in industry and the available money or credit was readily transferred to construction.

Against this backdrop, the government should develop a more coherent policy on construction especially in urban areas where the tentacles of building have penetrated deep into fertile agricultural lands. This, the government can do by influencing or even controlling the banking policy in the country which seems to contribute to the problem by extending easy credit for these purposes instead of other more viable economic ventures. Municipalities are also called upon to streamline a more enlightened licensing policy with a view to curtailing the proliferation of unnecessary investment in stones and cement. There are all sorts of avenues available to local and central governments to influence, or even control, the runaway real estate expenditure. The Middle Eastern political climate can be expected to improve soon especially if peace is indeed around the corner. The industrialisation programme in the country, that sprung up last decade and came suddenly to a damaging halt, should be encouraged for an early resumption. There is no way that Jordan's economic woes, including unemployment and dependence, can be resolved without the diversion of funds to industrialisation. Jordanian industrial products proved to be highly competitive regionally as well as internationally. There is no reason to cast doubt on the ability of Jordanian industrialists to make additional gains in their quest for penetrating new markets in the future. The orientation to industry calls for governmental policy and action and the first line of offense is to put the lid on runaway construction craze.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily dwelt on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and said its people live a tragic experiment as a result of the conspiracies of the U.S.-led western world. The tragedy of Bosnia-Herzegovina is not political, military or economic. It is rather a manifestation of the ongoing struggle between the West and the East ethnically, religiously and culturally, the paper said. The Serbian onslaught on the Muslims of Serbia is part of a U.S.-led western conspiracy against the Muslims and a new form of crusade against the East, it continued. Over the ages, the Muslims, whose religion is one of tolerance have fallen victim to the conspiracies of the Romans, the old and the new, and have suffered a great deal as a result of injustice and continued aggression, said the daily. It accused the western world of genocide against the Muslims, starting with the former Yugoslavia, Iraq, Egypt and Algeria before carrying out similar plots against the rest of the Muslim World.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i expressed the view that all the Arab parties to the peace process will go to Washington on schedule and will comply with the desires and wishes of the U.S.-Israeli alliance. Tareq Masarweh said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin who visited Washington and talked to president Clinton, passed on Israel's terms to the Americans who, in turn, passed them on to Mr. Mubarak and the other Arab parties. The meeting, between Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Rabin, said the writer, was in line with a tripartite plan to implement Israel's ideas on the future of the Arab territories occupied since 1967. The U.S.-Israeli plan does not entail any pressure by Washington against Mr. Rabin and his government for any concessions, therefore, the Arabs have no alternative but to accept the U.S. biased role as it is, with no change in the American position as the Arabs had hoped, said the writer.

## Can Arabs expect impartiality from U.S. policy?

By Pascal B. Karim

WARREN CHRISTOPHER'S statement before the congressional committee a few days ago on the Arab-Israeli conflict in particular and on the Middle East in general was clearly biased towards Israel and prejudicial to the Arabs. This attitude does not really surprise the Arabs. Ever since the creation of Israel, and despite its occupation of Palestinian and Arab states' territories in 1967, its state terrorism against the Palestinian Lebanese peoples and its flouting of numerous United Nations resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict, the U.S. has never deflected from defending Israel in all international forums.

Mr. Warren Christopher's statement outlines in effect the policy of the new Democratic administration towards the Arab-Israeli conflict, which does not substantially differ from that of previous American administrations. It is not an impartial policy and the Arabs may be doubtful whether the U.S. can participate as a full, honest partner in the Arab-Israeli negotiations. One may legitimately conclude that the U.S. will participate as a full partner but rather on Israel's side, away from being an honest

broker. What has the U.S. done to stop Israel from its cruel, callous and inhuman treatment of the Palestinians in their homeland who are rightly resisting Israeli occupation as any other subjugated people would do? This is not violence on both sides, as the U.S. usually describes it thus equating the victim with the oppressor.

Mr. Christopher reiterated the U.S.'s refusal to resume the dialogue with the PLO, the sole representative of the Palestinian people, although one hundred and twenty-two (122) states have recognised the PLO thus encompassing the great majority of the world's population. As is well-known, the PLO had recognised Israel in 1988 in Geneva and Chairman Yasser Arafat has condemned terrorism and declared that the provision in the Palestine Charter regarding the establishment of a Palestinian state over all Palestine of the mandate period was "caducous," that is obsolescent or null and void. What more can be expected from the PLO?

By its concessions the PLO has already alienated many parties and groups among the Palestinian as well as the Arab peoples. It cannot and should not make any

more concessions, especially not before Israel's complete withdrawal from the Palestinian territory, the establishment of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination as enshrined in the United Nations Charter and the establishment of the Palestine state. Any more concessions by it will simply efface it and let it fall into oblivion. Why, therefore, does not the U.S. deal directly with the PLO instead of dealing with proxies who in effect receive their instructions from the PLO headquarters in Tunis? This is an ostrich-like attitude which the Democratic administration should discard for the sake of solving quickly and justly the Palestine-Israeli conflict. International law is on the Palestinian side. No state can deny this.

In his above-mentioned statement Mr. Christopher has claimed that the Arab states should lift the economic boycott against Israel, especially as regards American companies which have trade or investment interests in Israel. The U.S. administration is surely aware of the fact that the boycott of Israel was decided by the Arab League as a result of the wars and state terrorism which Israel has and continues to wage

against the Palestinians and the Arab states and the consequent occupation of Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese territories. It is a legitimate boycott under international law, when a state of war exists, and it can be lifted only after Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the conclusion of a peace treaty between Israel and the Arab states concerned. Moreover, no single Arab state can lawfully lift the boycott as this was decided by the Arab League council and can be lifted by it only. In this connection, did not the U.S. impose a blockade on Nicaragua during the Sandinista regime despite the non-existence of a state of war between them? And is not the U.S. still boycotting Cuba, although no state of war exists between them? In law one cannot appropriate and reprobate at the same time in respect of the same act.

It may be concluded from U.S. policy towards the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular, as evinced in Warren Christopher's statement and from President Bill Clinton's declarations before and after his election, that the Arabs should not pin great hopes on the U.S. for a

just peace in their conflict with Israel. Israel is still a strategic ally of the U.S. whereas some of the Arab states are marginal allies. This U.S.-Israel strategic alliance was established during the cold war to counter the Soviet Union before its collapse. One may wonder now who this strategic alliance is directed against. Maybe it is against the Arab and, or the Muslim states, as the case requires it.

The U.S., with its allies Britain and France, is threatening Libya with stronger sanctions if it does not surrender for trial the two persons suspected of having blown up the Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, in Scotland, and the French airliner over Chad. Libya is not obliged, under international law to surrender its own citizens for trial in a foreign state and there is no extradition treaty between Libya and the three states concerned. The Security Council resolution on this case, decided on April 15, 1992, was wrongly taken and as the result of pressures exercised upon Security Council members. The honourable members have totally ignored Chapter VI of the U.N. Charter which calls for peaceful redress of disputes, and at a time

when Libya, in compliance with international law, had resorted to the International Court of Justice. As Professor Marc Weller wrote in "The European" newspaper, some judges were privately enraged by this use of the Security Council: "For in this instance the mechanism designed to combat actual acts of aggression has been transformed into a machinery for ad hoc law-making to further the interests of individual states and prejudice the decision of the court."

In a nutshell the U.S. policy and sometimes that of Britain and France, put the Arabs way down on the scale of their balance. This is the result of the Arab states' divisions, disarray and rivalry. The victims are of course the Arab peoples. We are living in a new, "feudal" world order dominated by the U.S., in the first place, with Britain and France following. And unless the Arab states wake up, achieve solidarity and form one block in the world arena, they will simply remain "vassals" of the above-mentioned "feudal" lord states. The latter will enslave the Arab peoples and monopolise their riches and resources, leaving them the crumbs, that fall from their tables.

## THE WEEK IN PRINT

## No peace can be achieved without 242, 338

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE IMMINENT resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations in Washington, inter-Arab relations, Iraq, and domestic issues were given prominence in the Jordanian press over the past week.

Sawt Al Shaah daily believed that the Arab parties, including the Palestinians, will go to Washington for the talks, noting that President Bill Clinton had promised to Arabs and the world that 1993 would be the year of peace.

But, said the paper, despite the Arab countries' decision, nothing should change their mind about the need for the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 and about the fact that Israel should not be allowed to change the concept of the present negotiations as being based on anything other than resolutions 242 and 338.

Al Dostour said that the Palestinian side to the peace talks could change its mind about participation in the coming parity in view of the current situation in the occupied Arab territories where Israel is starving two million Arabs.

Israel's imposition of siege and its starving of the Palestinian people can only be bad for the coming Washington parity and therefore Israel's policies against the Palestinians should be stopped before the resumption of talks, the paper urged. It said Israel's collective punishment of the Arab people is in violation of all human rights and all international laws.

Fahed Al Fanek, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that Israel stands to lose a great deal more than the Palestinians by a siege of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. He said that the Israeli economy is badly hit and the factories and construction businesses suffer. But, the writer said, Israel seems to be aiming at something deeper and more sinister: to stifle the spirit of resistance among the Arabs with such harsh measures.

The impossible situation in the occupied territories, added the writer, has now forced thousands to leave for Jordan, something which is seen as part of Israel's so-called transfer policies against the Arab population.

Taher Al Udwan said in Al Dostour that the collective punishment of the Palestinians is a crime that has to be stopped. While the Arab World is totally silent about this atrocity, Jordan and its people, said the writer, should not remain passive. They should express their support for their kinsmen by word and deed, morally and materially, and should contribute to Palestinian steadfastness.

A number of columnists attacked Kuwait and its Foreign Minister Sabah Al Ahmad for his latest hostile statements against Jordan and the call for ending the Arab boycott of Israel. This is not surprising because the Kuwaitis have long ago sold themselves out to the western countries and normalised their relations with the Jewish state, said Salameh Ekour in Sawt Al Shaah daily. The writer said that Israel

has been importing its oil from Kuwait since 1948.

Another attack on Kuwait came from Tareq Masarweh, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, who said that the Kuwaiti rulers have now sunk to the lowest level by openly selling themselves out to Israel and its allies against the Arab Nation.

The Kuwaitis are hostile to Jordan, and other Arab states and the PLO because these Arabs have voiced their opposition to settling the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute with western guns and aggression, said the writer. He said that as a result of their conspiracies with the West, the Kuwaiti rulers have caused untold sufferings to the Arab World.

Ahmad Dabbas, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaah daily, turned his attention to the ongoing efforts to achieve solidarity among Arab countries, citing the latest pan-Arab meetings held in Amman to achieve that goal.

The resolutions of the Arab labour conference barely touched on the need to ensure the compensation of the Palestinian and Jordanian workers forced out from Kuwait, said the writer. The Arab participants should have made it clear that the Jordanians' and the Palestinians' rights ought to be respected and the Arab League and its various branches should deal with this matter and follow up the compensation issue, the writer said.

Tareq Masarweh said in Al Ra'i that the Arab labour conference was a manifestation of the Arab countries' desire to achieve a solidarity that would end the disarray in Arab ranks. But, he said, such a conference, and others like it, should not serve as a cover up for the atrocities committed against the Palestinians and Jordanians in Kuwait, but rather should reemphasise their full rights.

Jordan has succeeded in creating the right atmosphere for a successful parity in Amman, he said, but this is not enough. Solidarity should mean ending the difficulties created by the Kuwaitis to the people of Jordan, Palestine, Yemen, Sudan and others evicted without compensation from Kuwait.

Mohammad Subeih, a columnist in Al Dostour, said that Qatar's recent decision to allow Jordanians to retain their jobs and to open the door for more Jordanians to come was a welcome development. He said that the Gulf countries have begun to realise Jordan's sound national stand during the Gulf crisis and are now extending a friendly hand to the Jordanians. But the writer said that in view of the continued threats coming from Iran and in the light of Hosni Mubarak's recent statement that Iran was trying to dominate the Gulf, there is an urgent need for a pan-Arab conference to discuss pan-Arab national security in the face of external threats.

Mr. Mubarak's statement that Iran can be checked only by Iraq, which can create a balance of power in the Gulf, was discussed by Abdul Rahim Omar in Al Ra'i. The writer said that although this is correct, one can only say that Mr. Mubarak, who has now realised the danger of Iran, should have tried to solve the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute by Arab means and not by allowing the destruction of Iraqi military power to serve Israel's purposes and objectives.

Mr. Mubarak should end the embargo on Iraq and should convince the West to end its hostility towards Iraq before it is too late, he said.

In Al Dostour's view, Mr. Mubarak's statement represented a turning point in Egypt's policies and a positive development. The paper said that though Mr. Mubarak's statement came late, one can only note that it emerged only when the western countries are busy with a hostile campaign against Iran. Yet, it said, we hope that Mr. Mubarak is revisiting Egypt's policies and is taking steps towards addressing previous blunders.

Salameh Ekour attacked the U.S. and western alliance for their continued hostile attitude towards Iraq. The more we bear statements about full cooperation on the part of Iraq, with the U.N. inspectors, the more hostile these western nations become, said the writer. It is astonishing to see such an attitude and to hear about provocative shelling of Iraqi territory by U.S. and western planes at a time when Iraq is reported to be more committed to implementing U.N. resolutions, said the writer.

Samir Qitami said in Sawt Al Shaah that Iraq is facing continued international conspiracies which create anger and indignation in the hearts of Arabs. Worse still are the statements we hear from Arab leaders now and then expressing support for the Iraqi people but without lifting a finger to alleviate their sufferings, said the writer.

Taher Al Udwan said that the western countries proved their hypocrisy by claiming that the Gulf is being threatened by Iran which is seeking to become a nuclear power. What about Israel, which possesses more than 200 nuclear warheads and continues to threaten the security of the Arab region, asked Udwan.

He said that the western countries resorted to destroying the Iraqi military power for the sake of retaining their hold on Gulf oil and now they are trying to present Iran as a source of danger to pave

the ground for another aggression to ensure constant domination of the Arab wealth.

Khalil Al Sawahiri, a columnist in Al Ra'i, attacked the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for what he said were its intended plans to reduce services to the Palestinian refugees in Jordan.

A statement by the agency's commissioner general last month that the level of services will be reduced due to the recurrent deficit in the agency's budget is very serious indeed and is viewed as a form of pressure on the Palestinians, said the writer. The agency's services are part of a mandate by the United Nations in effect until the Palestinians have been repatriated, he noted.

The writer said that any threats of reducing the level of services along with the agency's other measures, like freezing employees' increments, can only be interpreted as a form of pressure on the Arabs. Ahmad Dabbas said in Sawt Al Shaah that if UNRWA reduces its services, Jordan will be hard hit because this leaves heavy tasks to the Jordanian government which is already overburdened with commitments towards the unfortunate people.

Jordan, said the writer, has been providing basic services to the residents of the camps ever the past 45 years and any reduction of the agency's services would cause imbalances and additional burdens for the local authorities.

Salah Al Qallah, a columnist in Al Dostour, said that the agency's move to reduce its services is a plot that should be stemmed to the bud. Six thousand five hundred agency employees are already affected by UNRWA's measures, represented in the freezing of their annual increments, and the reduction of educational services is bound to affect 130,000 refugee students, said the writer.

UNRWA's plans are purely political and are meant as a pressure on the Jordanian government which is already overburdened with the task of caring for 400,000 Palestinians returning from Kuwait, said the writer.

Mohammad Kawash criticised the government's planned step to impose a value added tax under the pretext of honouring the economic restructuring programme committed made with the World Bank. The additional tax would force people to tighten their belts and do without many items, and goods they were used to having as necessary for their lives, said the writer.

The World Bank, he said, is being used as a tool by the United States to exercise pressure on Jordan and other Third World countries to fall in line with Washington's desires and policies or else face difficult times ahead.

Taher Al Udwan tackled the question of exorbitant private school fees in Jordan. Writing in Al Dostour, the columnist said that one after another of these schools are increasing their fees and creating new financial and educational crises in Jordan. The parents are facing a dilemma: to keep their children in these schools and pay the high fees or withdraw them and take them to government schools, overburdening the Ministry of Education, said the writer.

He said that if schools are facing financial crises, the issue should be settled in a democratic manner and the Ministry of Education should have a hand in solving the problem.

Mona Shuqair, a columnist in Al Dostour, said that Jordanians will soon be celebrating the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional powers. It would be an occasion of joy for every citizen and for all organisations in view of the King's relentless efforts over the past four decades to serve his nation and the Jordanian people, said the writer.

Yet, she said, Jordanian citizens and organisations should display a good level of maturity in celebrating the occasion in a manner different from the traditional style, especially in the official information services and the media.

The writer said that Jordanians should display their affection and support for their leader not by glorifying the King's person but rather objectively and sensibly and in a manner that conforms to the democratic process the Kingdom is living through.

No celebrations can match those accorded to the King when he returned to Amman following his successful medical treatment in the United States, she said. She added that the affection and support accorded to the King by the Jordanian people are unlimited. But, she said, this should not be expressed by lavish spending as King Hussein would want us rather to spend on alleviating the sufferings of one third of the population who live in abject poverty.

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The World Bank, he said, is being used as a tool by the United States to exercise pressure on Jordan and other Third World countries to fall in line with Washington's desires and policies or else face difficult times ahead.

Taher Al Udwan tackled the question of exorbitant private school fees in Jordan. Writing in Al Dostour, the columnist said that one after another of these schools are increasing their fees and creating new financial and educational crises in Jordan. The parents are facing a dilemma: to keep their children in these schools and pay the high fees or withdraw them and take them to government schools, overburdening the Ministry of Education, said the writer.

He said that if schools are facing financial crises, the issue should be settled in a democratic manner and the Ministry of Education should have a hand in solving the problem.

Mona Shuqair, a columnist in Al Dostour, said that Jordanians will soon be celebrating the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional powers. It would be an occasion of joy for every citizen and for all organisations in view of the King's relentless efforts over the past four decades to serve his nation and the Jordanian people, said the writer.

Yet, she said, Jordanian citizens and organisations should display a good level of maturity in celebrating the occasion in a manner different from the traditional style, especially in the official information services and the media.

The writer said that Jordanians should display their affection and support for their leader not by glorifying the King's person but rather objectively and sensibly and in a manner that conforms to the democratic process the Kingdom is living through.

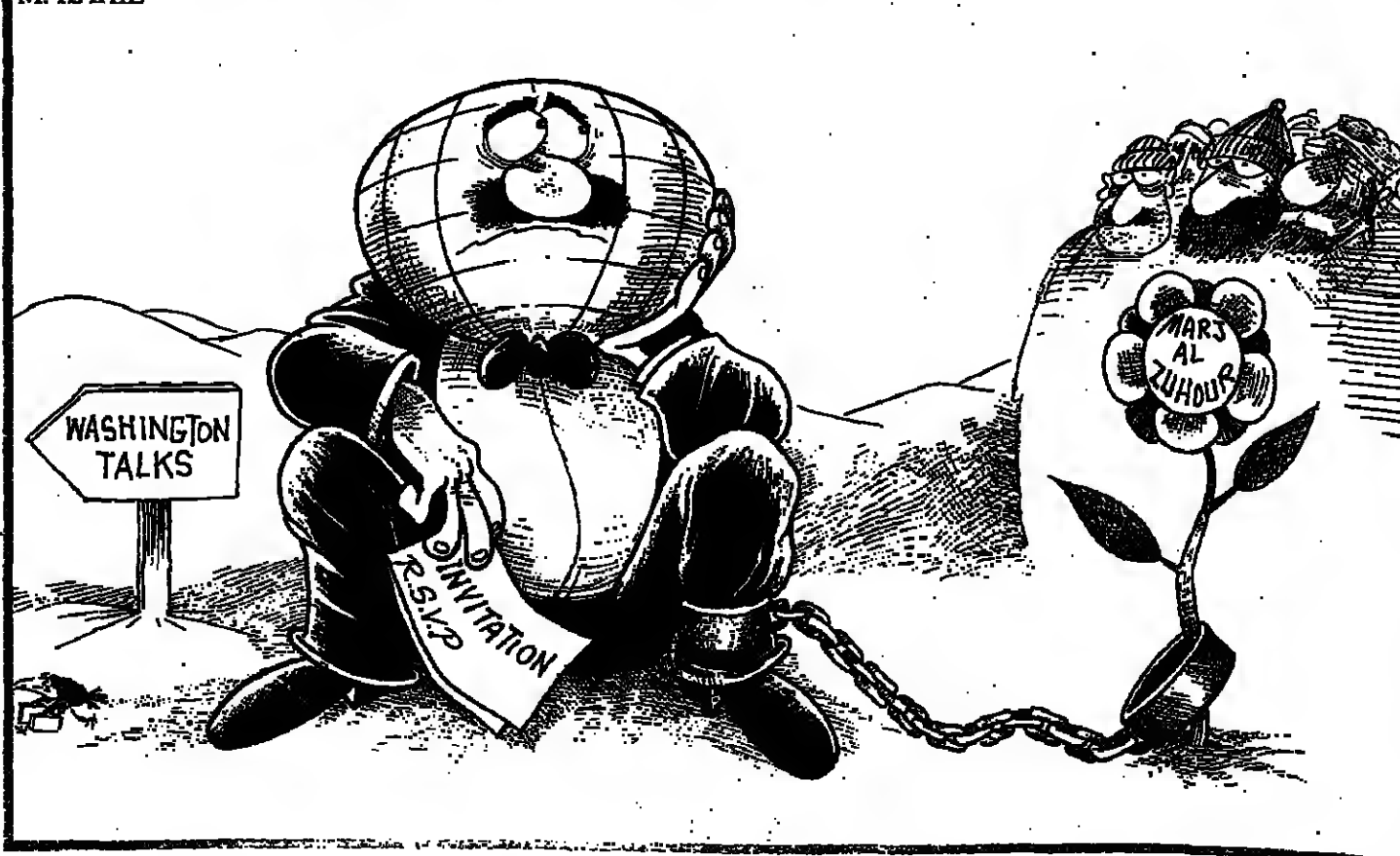
No celebrations can match those accorded to the King when he returned to Amman following his successful medical treatment in the United States, she said. She added that the affection and support accorded to the King by the Jordanian people are unlimited. But, she said, this should not be expressed by lavish spending as King Hussein would want us rather to spend on alleviating the sufferings of one third of the population who live in abject poverty.

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M. KAHL





## Clinton lauds Jordan's efforts

(Continued from page 1)

Another chance to achieve just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region may not come again. Jordan has much to gain from this process. We have made clear that the United States would be an honest broker, a catalyst for peace and a driving force to help ensure that negotiations are productive. The secretary of state and I have reiterated the commitment of the United States to play an active role in helping the process succeed.

"Mr. Ambassador, you face many challenges as you begin your important work here in Washington. His Majesty King Hussein I and the government of Jordan have entrusted you with an important position, and thus show great confidence in your abilities and judgment. We share that confidence, and we look forward to working with you throughout your tenure as Ambassador of Jordan to the United States, to the mutual benefit of both our nations."

Following is the text of Mr. Tarawneh's remarks:

Mr. President,

"I have been instructed by His Majesty, King Hussein I and Queen Noor, to extend to you — His Excellency President and to the First Lady, Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton, their cordial regards and warmest congratulations on the occasion of your inauguration."

"It is indeed an honour and privilege to present to you, Mr. President, my letter of credentials, accrediting me as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United States of America. My principal duty is to work closely with your administration towards deepening and enhancing our long-standing relationship that stands historically on firm grounds of common values and principles."

"We acknowledge and appreciate your monumental task of leading your great nation. We are equally certain, however, that your enlightened leadership and noble convictions will greatly contribute towards restoring peace, order and human dignity to all the troubled spots of the world. The indispensable role of the United States of America in the Middle East peace process, as a co-sponsor and as a superpower, is an outstanding example."

"It is needless to say that His Majesty King Hussein and the government of Jordan have always advocated, as a matter of principle and position, peaceful resolutions to conflicts. For such resolutions to be lasting and durable, however, they must address and tackle the roots of the conflicts in a just and comprehensive manner based on international legitimacy. The full-fledged participation of Jordan and its continuous pivotal role, in both the bilateral and the multilateral peace negotiations, are the manifestation of our commitment to the noble cause of peace in the Middle East."

"Hope will never desert us because we are believers in God the Almighty, and because we are convinced that fairness, equality and justice to all human races will replace their long tortuous agony and suffering. And as we, Mr. President, share your assessment of this world that is 'warmed by the sunshine of freedom but threatened still by ancient hatreds and new plagues,' we assure you that Jordan will always struggle to keep the lights of freedom shining, to abrogate hatreds, and to abolish new plagues."

"Mr. President, I seek your attention and advice and your government's assistance in my strive to strengthen the bonds of our friendship and the position of our mutual interests."

"Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration."

## Expellees stage 'death march'

(Continued from page 1)

wounded in the chest. It could not be immediately determined whether he was wounded by shrapnel or a small piece of stone chipped off by the shell.

Sheikh Karawi was carried into a 'blue van', which raced back to the 'camp clinic'. His condition was 'not immediately known'.

Earlier, the exiles held their Friday noon prayers in open air in the hot sun. As they knelt on the ground, gunfire crackled over them and a shell exploded some 50 metres away. No-one was hurt in this shelling.

The exiles halted their march after Sheikh Karawi was injured.

"It is clear that we cannot go any further," Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi told reporters.

"For the time being we will stay where we are. We will study the situation later," he added.

The men sat down in the road facing Israeli tanks, armoured troop carriers and soldiers waiting at a gate about 500 metres north of the Zmraya checkpoint with a water tanker.

The men, who ended their fourth month in exile Friday, wore white headbands bearing the slogan: "Dying for the sake of God is our purest wish." Some were draped in white burial shrouds.

"From this advanced position... I tell the so-called Palestinian delegation it has to withdraw forever and immediately from the peace process," Dr. Rantisi told reporters.

"I tell the Arab delegations that you should keep your vows and we will hold you responsible for any breach of them... we wanted the march to awaken the world's conscience which forgot our cause."

Foreign ministers from Syria.

Lebanon and Jordan and a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official met in Damascus on Friday to decide whether to attend the next round of Middle East peace talks.

The 396 exiles, most sympathisers or members of Islamic groups opposed to the 17-month-old peace process, demanded Israel abide by a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for their immediate return.

They said they expected the Palestinian delegation to attend a ninth round of peace talks with Israel as it had dropped its demand that all the exiles should first go home.

The men sat down in the road to eat after five hours but vowed to march on despite about 20 Israeli soldiers or allied militiamen waiting at a gate about 150 metres south.

They smeared their faces with onions in case of tear-gas. Israeli helicopters monitored the men's progress, which was also closely followed by three Israeli tanks and two troop carriers.

"Be strong. Do not be afraid of death," Mohammad Abn Zeid, a preacher at Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, told them after shells sent smoke billowing over them.

They advanced about 50 metres farther than they reached on a march in which three exiles were wounded by shrapnel four days after being banished without trial by Israel in December.

"We are heading towards Palestine ready to die for our religion," Sheikh Ahmad Bahar from the Gaza Strip told the exiles while they knelt on the road for Friday prayers.

"We carry no arms. Today our weapon is blood," he said between barrages of tank and artillery-fire.

## Palestinians want talks delayed

(Continued from page 1)

especially those of the Palestinians, can be addressed most effectively at the negotiating table."

Chief Palestinian peace negotiator Haidar Abdul Shafi told the Paris-based Radio l'Orient in Washington the Arab side should not resume the talks on April 20 because Israel had failed to meet their minimum demands.

The plenary session here was preceded by a brief meeting between Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, Lebanon's Fares Bouez, Khaled Abu Jaber of Jordan and the PLO's Farouq Kaddonmi. Egyptian Foreign

Minister Amr Musa also attended.

The head of the Palestinian delegation's steering committee, Faisal Hussein, was not in Damascus, as previously reported, said Palestinian sources, adding that he ended meetings in Cairo and headed straight for Tunis.

Mr. Amr Musa, who conveyed a message from President Hosni Mubarak to his Syrian counterpart Hafez Al Assad, voiced hope the meeting here would not turn the expellees issue into "a publicity stunt."

He said Egypt supported the expellees' right to return and urged "the whole world, includ-

ing the expelled Palestinians, to preserve the peace process, which is a priority and which should help them achieve their rights to self-determination, land and return."

Mr. Bouez said unity of the Arabs decision was essential and unity within Arab ranks to secure their rights.

Official Damascus Radio said the Arab officials were holding their most dangerous meeting "as they are to take a final decision on their participation at the next round of talks."

Palestinian sources said they were disappointed that Egyptian President Mubarak failed to secure concessions when he met Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Wednesday.

## Christians prevented from prayers

(Continued from page 1)

General Yomtov Samia, commander of the Israeli troops in Gaza, told Israel Radio that 33 wanted men had been caught on the strip since the strip was closed off on March 29.

"The great majority of the Palestinians we have arrested are from Hamas," he said referring to the Islamic Resistance Movement.

On the West Bank 10 wanted Palestinians have been arrested

along with 131 others since the territory was sealed off on March 31.

The government has decided to maintain the ban on Palestinians travelling to Israel indefinitely.

That threw out of work the 116,000 Palestinians who used to travel daily to jobs in Israel. Under pressure from Israeli employers the authorities have this week granted 8,000 permits for Palestinian workers.

## Srebrenica

(Continued from page 1)

U.N. Security Council was to discuss the possible fall of Srebrenica after a year under siege, an official source said here.

U.N. diplomats say Srebrenica's fall could lead to tightened sanctions against Belgrade.

Mr. Stephanopoulos said Secretary of State Warren Christopher had told Russia's deputy foreign affairs minister about U.S. concern about the town during a telephone conversation Friday. Russia has traditionally been a Serbian ally.

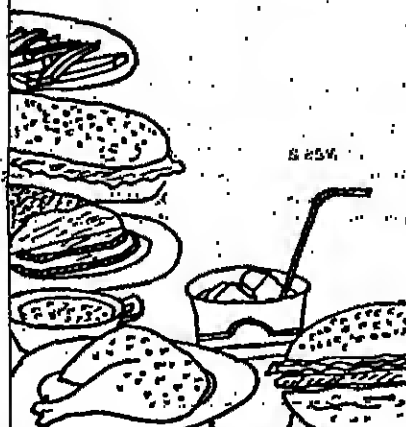
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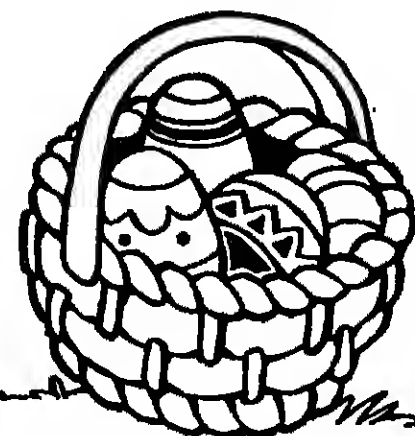
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## Women's Handball Tournament

## Orthodoxi defeat Ahli in 1st round final

By Roufan Nahhas  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The first round of the women's handball tournament, organized by the Jordan Handball Federation, ended Thursday when Al Orthodoxi defeated Al Ahli 19-16.

The match, attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Haya was held at Al Ahli's court.

The first goal of the match was scored by Al Ahli's Manal Banat, three minutes after the start of the game. Teammate Suha Shokeh put up a big effort to score for her team, while Al Orthodoxi mainly depended on Haifa Awad, Lima Jallad and Rana Lahham.

Rough play had a negative impact on the match, which was marked by a very high number of fouls from both teams.

The first half ended with Al Orthodoxi leading 9-8.

The second half brought more excitement to the game as Al

Orthodoxi's Lahham scored to give her team the lead at 11-8. Al Ahli tightened their defence and managed to draw at 11-11.

Lahham however scored again, and Al Orthodoxi took the lead to 17-13.

Al Orthodoxi's goalkeeper Lina Jaser saved a last minute goal for Al Ahli and froze their attempts to catch up to win the match 19-16.

Al Orthodoxi's Coach, Turki Jameel, criticised the referees and said they were unfair and sent out too many players.

Two teams representing the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University originally took part in the championship, which aims at choosing the women's national handball team. The University of Jordan later pulled out of the competition.

The second round begins Saturday when Al Yarmouk play Al Ahli, while Al Orthodoxi play Yarmouk Monday. The tournament ends Wednesday.

## NBA ROUNDUP

MILWAUKEE (R) — Danny Ferry scored 18 points and Mike Sanders had 16 to lead the Cleveland Cavaliers to their sixth straight win with a 108-93 triumph over the Milwaukee Bucks Thursday.

Cleveland held a 26-24 lead with eight minutes left in the second quarter and outscored Milwaukee 18-6 the next four minutes and held a 47-40 lead at halftime.

Derek Strong scored 13 points and Todd Day and Frank Brickowski added 11 points apiece for the Bucks, who have dropped three straight and seven of their last nine games.

At Utah, Karl Malone collected 38 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists and Jeff Malone scored 24 points to lead the Utah Jazz to a 122-117 overtime victory over the Portland Trail Blazers.

Utah, winners of two straight, outscored Portland 17-12 in overtime.

Cliff Robinson scored 40 points and Terry Porter added 21 for Portland, which had its five-game winning streak snapped.

Karl Malone was 13-of-23 from the floor and John Stockton added 15 points and 12 assists for the Jazz, who evened the season series with the blazers at 2-2.

Porter has scored 89 points in Portland's last four games.

At New Jersey, Sherman Douglas hit a running jumper with three-tenths of a second left to lift the Boston Celtics to a 106-105 triumph over New Jersey, handing the Nets' their season-high seventh straight loss.

Reggie Lewis led the Celtics with 29 points and Douglas finished with 19.

Derrick Coleman, who had 33 points, 15 rebounds and 10 assists, hit a short jumper with 5.5 seconds remaining to give New Jersey a 105-104 lead, before Douglas hit the game-winning.

Rumeal Robinson had 26 points for the Nets, who dropped 2½ games behind Boston for the fourth spot and home-court advantage in the first round of the Eastern Conference playoffs.

In Philadelphia, Jeff Hornacek netted 26 points as the Philadelphia 76ers downed the Orlando Magic 101-85 to end a three-game losing streak.

Clarence Weatherspoon added 21 points and 10 rebounds as the 76ers won for the third time in their last 13 games.

But Philadelphia lost Eddie Lee Wilkins for the season when he tore his left Achilles tendon in the third quarter.

Philadelphia held a 47-39 lead at halftime, but outscored Washington 14-2 to start the second half and take a 61-41 lead.

Shaquille O'Neal had 21 points, 11 rebounds and blocked four shots for Orlando, who dropped a game behind Detroit and Indiana for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Donald Royal had 16 points for the Magic.



Orlando's Shaquille O'Neal No. 32 goes up for a backboard layup

At Washington, Rex Chapman and Tom Gugliotta scored 22 points apiece as the Washington Bullets snapped a five-game losing streak with a 110-92 victory over the Miami Heat.

Doug Overton added 16 points for Washington.

Glen Rice scored 23 points and Steve Smith added 20 for Miami, which lost its second straight game and dropped 3½ games behind Indiana and Detroit for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

## FIFA demands professional referees in major leagues

ZURICH (R) — Soccer leagues across the world have been told by FIFA they must introduce professional referees, following their successful debut in Italy this season.

The sport's world governing body has told all national football associations with professional leagues to follow Italy's lead and asked them to draw up a transitional plan.

"FIFA would like all national associations with professional leagues to follow Italy's lead and have professional referees," spokesman Guido Tononi said Friday. He added that FIFA would like to see most top leagues employing professional referees by the turn of the century.

"We can't accept, any more, professional football being refereed by amateurs. We have to move with the times and we have to encourage all the national associations," Tononi added.

"It will be hard but FIFA has stopped appealing to national associations, we now want them doing something and working on that project. It's a service to the game."

General Secretary Sepp Blatter has been campaigning for their introduction since the poor refereeing performances in the last World Cup finals three years ago. "Referees are an important part of football, but they are not

envoys from God. They must become as professional as players to bring the game into line with society," he said.

FIFA's referees committee gave their full support to Blatter's plans for the first time Thursday.

They agreed to ask national associations to draw up plans for training, pay and social security benefits and envisaged referees being supervised by the national associations.

Italy introduced semi-professional referees this season, with the leading 10 on FIFA's international list receiving up to 2.5 million lire (\$1,600) a match and another 27 in charge of Serie A and B games getting 'mushless'.

## Zimbabwe winger wins high praise

LYON (AFP) — Coventry coach Bobby Gould believes his multi-talented winger Peter Ndlovu can become as good a player as the former Manchester United hero George Best.

Gould, who watched Ndlovu play for Zimbabwe in their goalless draw against Egypt here Thursday, knew he had a bargain when he bought Ndlovu from Bulawayo Highlanders for a mere 10,000 pounds two years ago.

Thursday's draw put Zimbabwe in the final stages of the Africa Zone World Cup, qualifying competition, giving Ndlovu a broader stage by which to demonstrate his vast array of talents.

"He has the balance and the ability to dribble the ball like George Best in his prime," Gould said. "Though I'm not saying he is as good as George Best at the moment, he is still young enough to improve."

"He has great meet and a superb ability to ride challenges and knows how to get himself into good positions. And he's very quick," Gould added.

Ndlovu already has around 30 caps as he began his international career at 15. And though Gould is pleased to see him do well for his country, he believes it has affected his league form.

## Juventus and Milan clash today

MILAN (Agencies) — AC Milan and Juventus is the big match of the 28th round of the Italian First Division season at San Siro Stadium. But the drama and thrill are elsewhere.

At Florence, Fiorentina and Napoli — two teams accustomed to finishing among the leaders — battle to escape relegation.

Pre-season favorites for the Italian title, the Fiorentina and

Neapolitan teams have been big disappointments this year as struggling at the bottom.

Napoli, which won two league titles during the golden era of Diego Maradona in the late 80s, is 11th in the 18-team first division, only three points ahead of 15th-placed Udinese. The last four teams are relegated to the second division.

Fiorentina, which invested mil-

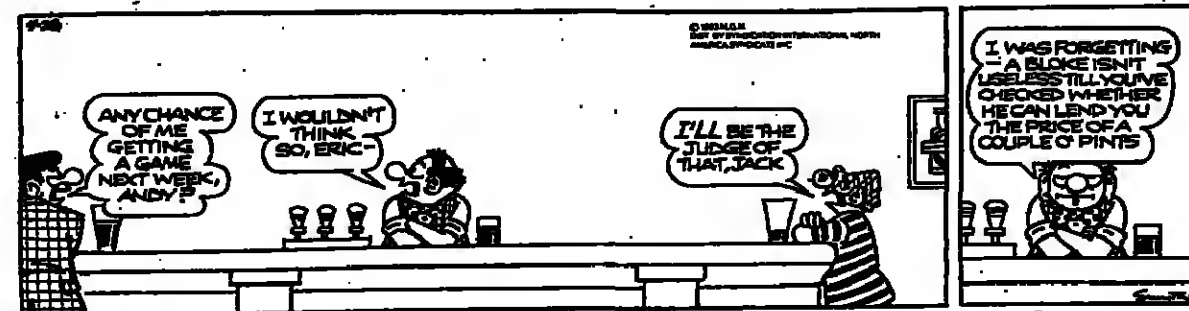
lions to sign Brian Laudrup, Stefan Effenberg and Francesco Baiano, is even worse — 13th place, two points behind Napoli and one out of the relegation zone.

Juventus and Milan will play Saturday, as will Parma and Sampdoria, to give Milan, Parma and Juventus and additional day's rest heading into next week's European Cup games.

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY APRIL 17, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** A problem from the past can hold you back from gaining new ambitions so try to settle it as quickly as possible even though you will most likely need to give up something to achieve unity.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You are eager to get everything in perfect condition beneath your own roof so use all possible time to do this and later avoid a difficult responsibility.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) The daytime brings you good fortune in whatever pertains to contracts, reports, documents or discussions with businessmen, etc., then avoid a scheming person.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Think about what you can do to handle all money matters so you have more when you need extra funds and later devise a budget to suit this ambition.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Take sometime out to arrange the various condition you like so the future will be more pleasant for you, then get a good rest tonight.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) You can get solid and secure advice during the daytime from those you know so contact and consult with them while tonight don't expect much from a lover.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Consider the various options

you have for gaining an important objective and use the one you feel wisest, then don't take on a problem tonight.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) You can accomplish much that is vital to your public image and reputation during the day but tonight don't try to push gaining a personal desire.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You have many new factors that can help you where advanced knowledge is concerned so be alert to them but tonight steer clear of worldly ambitions.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Listen to a good business person who will give you ideas for more wisdom in your expenditures, then tonight do not go off on any spree.

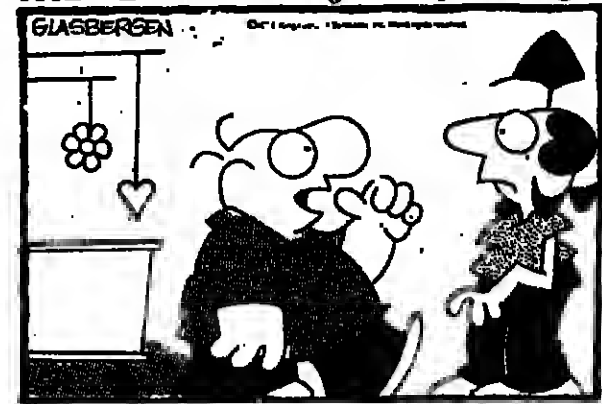
**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Join forces with a good merchandising person in a mutually beneficial project while later you find suggestions given that do not work just yet.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) A day to look at whatever activities you have not completed and quickly make them work as you avoid an outsider who disappears.

**PISCES:** (Feb. 20 to March 20) Arrange a good time and a romantic expression is fine for you during the daytime so schedule your time wisely, then tonight do what builds up your health.

## THE BETTER HALF

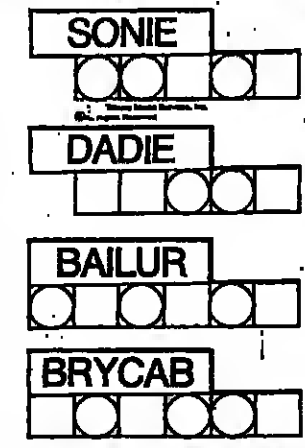
By Glasbergen



"I finally got your sister's baby to sleep. I played her a lullaby on my armpit."

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

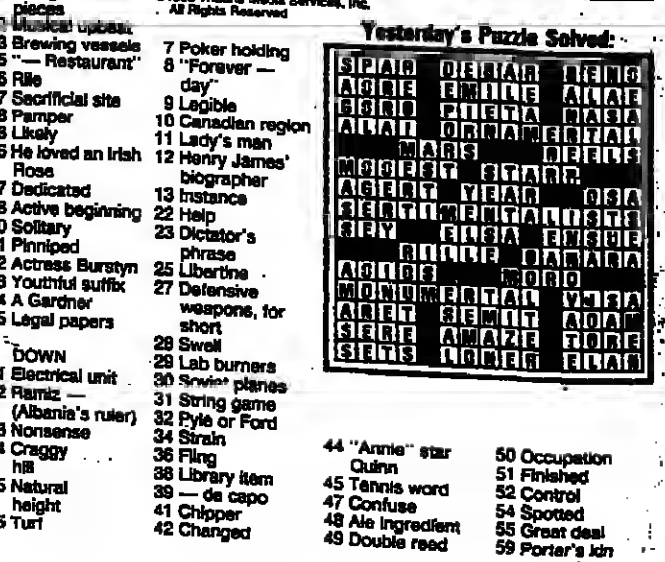
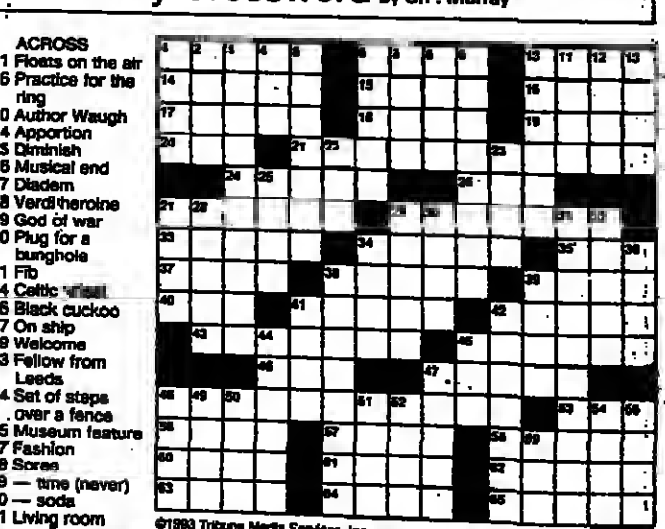


Answer: "SONIE, DADIE, BAILUR, BRYCAB"

Yesterday's Jumbles: RAINY, GLEAM, EIGHTY, RARELY

Answer: A one-man band — A MARRIAGE RING

## THE Daily Crossword by C.F. Murray



# EASTER

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## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH  
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### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

**Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**  
♠K763 ♣KJ86 ♥73 ♠A♦4  
The bidding has proceeded:  
East South West North  
1♣ Dbl Pass 1♠  
2♣ ?  
What action do you take?

**Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**  
♠KQ103 ♥95 ♠QJ782 ♠103  
The bidding has proceeded:  
West North East South  
1♣ Dbl 4♣ ?  
What action do you take?

**Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**  
♠A64 ♥J852 ♠A93 ♠AK5  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1NT Pass 2NT Pass ?  
What action do you take?

**Q.4—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:**  
♠7642 ♥66432 ♠J7 ♠A8  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
2♠\* Dbl ?  
—Weak  
What action do you take?

**Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**  
♠83 ♥KQJ10876 ♠95 ♥72  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1♣ Dbl ?  
What do you bid now?

**Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**  
♠AQ83 ♥7 ♠AQ95 ♠J1088  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1♣ Pass 1♣ Pass  
1♥ Pass 1♥ Pass  
2♣ Pass ?  
What do you bid now?







## Bosnia Muslim defenders offer Srebrenic surrender to Serbs

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serbs appeared poised to take Srebrenica Friday after a year-long siege as exhausted Muslim defenders began negotiating the enclave's surrender.

In Geneva, the United Nations said it was preparing to evacuate up to 30,000 refugees from Srebrenica, in eastern Bosnia, if it fell to Serb forces.

"The situation is very, very messy. It is very bad for us now," a Bosnian army source told Reuters. "It is a question of hours when Srebrenica will fall."

He said negotiations were under way and centred on Srebrenica's surrender.

Sylvana Foa, spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said in Geneva the UNHCR had 50 trucks ready to pick up refugees around Srebrenica if Serb forces captured it.

"The very buildings they are sheltering in are coming under attack now," said Tony Land, who heads UNHCR operations in Sarajevo. "It's horrific to contemplate that civilians may be caught in the middle of a battle."

On Thursday night, Serbs encircling Srebrenica launched an

offensive supported by artillery, multiple-rocket launchers and mortars. Radio operators said it had pushed the Muslim defenders to within two kilometres of the town in intense fighting that claimed heavy casualties.

Elsewhere in Bosnia, fierce battles broke out between nominally allied Croats and Muslims in the centre of the republic, and the Bosnian Serb army said at least two brigades of Muslim troops attacked Serb positions in eastern Bosnia.

The Muslim-led Bosnian government has warned that a Bosnian peace plan, drawn up by international mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, would collapse if the Serbs captured Srebrenica.

Despite international pressure, the Bosnian Serbs have not signed the U.N.-brokered plan, which has been endorsed by their Muslim and Croat adversaries, to end a year of civil war.

Although U.N. peacekeepers said Srebrenica itself had not been shelled since Thursday night, they said its situation was clearly worsening.

"The Serbs are advancing towards the town. The town situation is definitely deteriorating quite a bit," Captain Bill Karakatin, U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) deputy spokesman in Sarajevo, told Reuters.

"We are trying to ensure there will be no atrocities," he said.

He said General Philippe Morillon, the commander of UN-

PROFOR in Bosnia, was up until the early morning contacting the Serb leadership and the army command in Pale to "impress upon them the gravity of the situation and to say 'for God's sake control your commanders on the ground.'"

Gen. Morillon also tried contacting Bosnian Serb army commander General Ratko Mladic during the night to get him to restrain his forces, initiate a ceasefire and allow the wounded to be evacuated, he said. "That's priority for Morillon."

The Serbs have been putting pressure on the enclave, whose desperate plight was highlighted by Gen. Morillon's decision last month to set up his headquarters there to break the siege.

But neither this nor stern warnings by the United States worked as the Serbs stepped up artillery barrages that killed more than 60 people in Srebrenica this week, stirring international condemnation and reviving calls for foreign military intervention.

The assault prompted fears of a major humanitarian disaster and a halt to peace negotiations as the U.S. State Department released a report recommending the creation of havens for endangering communities in Bosnia such as Srebrenica.

Hours before what appears to have been the final assault, a U.N. aid convoy left Srebrenica with only five elderly women on board after local leaders blocked a mass refugee evacuation.

Lord Owen Friday urged the West to start selective bombing of roads and bridges in Bosnia to stop supplies reaching rebel Serb forces.

Lord Owen said in television interview: "If the Serbian government in Belgrade will not cut off those supplies, then we should interdict from the air and cut them off ourselves."

Asked whether he was calling for bombing, Lord Owen replied: "Yes, selective bombing to stop supplies coming through which are fuelling this war."

Lord Owen said the Serbs had to be brought face to face with reality and forced to sign a peace plan that he drew up with fellow peace envoy Cyrus Vance.

"I think the world community will now have to consider taking direct action to impose sanctions and that is by far the most effective measure," Lord Owen said.

"The problem is whether or not we can get the Russians to accept this action," said Lord Owen. "It would require a general U.N. resolution to use necessary measures to cut off supplies that are fuelling the war."

The United Nations expected to hold an emergency session Friday if Srebrenica fell, Council President Jansheed Marker said.

Mr. Marker, the ambassador of Pakistan, also admitted the Council was delaying a vote on tougher sanctions against Serbia until April 26 — a Russian demand — but said it would hold an open debate on the Bosnia crisis next week.



RAMPAGE IN JAKARTA: Two Indonesian officials check the debris of a burnt car outside a stadium south of Jakarta where U.S. heavy metal band Metallica gave concert. Hundreds of fans who could not enter the stadium went on a rampage burning several cars and foodstalls, and threw stones at security personnel (AFP photo)

## Mandela gets death threats — ANC

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Death threats have been made against Nelson Mandela since the assassination of South African Communist Party leader Chris Hani, the African National Congress (ANC) said Friday.

"Mr. Mandela has been receiving death threats, but I cannot go into details for security reasons," ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus told Reuters.

Asked if other ANC leaders had been threatened since Mr. Hani's murder Saturday, Mr. Niehaus said: "A wide range of people have been receiving death threats since Saturday. We are taking them seriously."

A pro-government newspaper reported earlier this week that Mr. Mandela and his entourage were followed home by a "suspicious-looking vehicle" last Sunday.

The Citizen newspaper said the car, with a Namibian registration plate, was spotted again near Mr. Mandela's home Monday but by the time police arrived it had disappeared.

Mr. Niehaus said the ANC's policy-making National Executive Committee had rejected a

government request for President F.W. de Klerk and Mandela, who is the ANC's president, to meet urgently to discuss the wave of violence sparked by Hani's murder. At least 26 people have been killed in the unrest.

The ANC has condemned the rioting and violence which erupted throughout South Africa during Wednesday's memorial marches for Mr. Hani, who was idolised by millions of blacks.

The man accused of killing him, right-wing Polish immigrant Janusz Walus, has been remanded in custody. Mr. Hani's name and that of Mandela were among nine on an apparent hit-list found by police in Mr. Walus' house.

Among others named were Communist Party Chairman Joe Slovo, Foreign Minister P.W. Botha, Judge Richard Goldstone and Ken Owen, the outspoken editor of South Africa's Sunday Times newspaper.

Mr. Hani will be buried Monday which the ANC has declared a national day of mourning. It has not, however, called for a mass strike.

ANC Information Director Pallo Jordan urged employers to

respect the right of workers to attend the funeral and asked businesses to close as a mark of respect.

The government said emergency measures would be declared in at least 19 areas around Johannesburg's industrial heartland to curb the wave of unrest since Mr. Hani's slaying.

Police will be given powers to arrest people without a warrant, detain without trial and impose curfews, police spokesman Chris Maritz said.

The ANC has dismissed the measures as a "display of insensitivity."

Two marches were planned for Saturday in Johannesburg and the capital Pretoria and the two cities were expected to come to a standstill.

The ANC has promised to beef up its marshalling at the marches to prevent a repeat of Wednesday's violence which it blamed on "criminal elements."

The government Thursday challenged the ANC to halt the violence and said all parties should work rapidly towards setting a date for South Africa's first multi-racial elections.

## Yeltsin travels to Minsk for CIS summit

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin Friday travelled to the Belarus capital of Minsk for a one-day summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States called to discuss the fate of the shaky alliance.

Mr. Yeltsin was also expected to gather support from leaders of former Soviet republics ahead of the April 25 referendum on his presidency and on his reform programme.

The summit was called last month by Mr. Yeltsin and Kazakhstan President Nursultan

Nazarbayev who maintained that closer CIS ties would help all former Soviet republics overcome the economic crisis.

Seven former Soviet republics have signed the CIS charter at the last summit meeting in Minsk on Jan. 22: Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Armenia.

The news agency quoted Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev as saying that the leaders opposed to the CIS should leave, a direct reference to Ukraine which views the club as

an instrument used by Russia to promote its own interests.

Moldovan President Mircea Snegur meanwhile said that he hoped the meeting would determine the framework for future CIS cooperation once and for all.

"We cannot overcome the situation all by ourselves," Mr. Snegur, quoted by ITAR-TASS said.

Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan added that the summit should help the CIS become an efficient forum, "a goal it has not yet achieved."

## Armenia: Turkey is sending arms, troops to Azeris

YEREVAN (AFP) — Turkey is shipping arms and troops to Azerbaijan for use in its war against Armenian forces, a spokesman for the Armenian Defence Ministry said here Friday.

The spokesman, Armen Dadian, said 30 military vehicles carrying arms and soldiers had begun crossing the border each day from Turkey into the Azerbaijani enclave of Nakhichevan.

From there they were being transported to the western Azerbaijani city of Gyandzha to join Azerbaijani units fighting in and around the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, Mr. Dadian said.

"Armenia cannot remain indifferent to violations of its airspace for the transport of arms and troops which are then used against Armenia," he stated.

Mr. Dadian said Armenia reserved the right to take "appropriate measures" to stop the flow of military aid from Turkey to Azerbaijan.

On Thursday, the Turkish Foreign Ministry indicated for the first time that Turkey was supplying military aid to Azerbaijan, but Turkish President Turgut Ozal, who just made a three-day visit to Baku, downplayed the reports.

## Soviet coup trial suspended indefinitely

MOSCOW (AP) — The trial of the alleged masterminds of the August 1991 coup was suspended indefinitely Friday because one of the 12 defendants is ill.

The presiding judge, Maj. Gen. Anatoly Ukolov, said the court would decide when to resume the trial after it received a medical report on Alexander Tizyakov, 67, who was rushed from the courtroom with heart trouble shortly after the trial began Wednesday.

Mr. Tizyakov is in a military hospital in Moscow, his co-defendants have argued that the trial cannot proceed without him. The medical report will determine whether he is truly too ill to defend himself.

A doctor who was in the courtroom gave an unofficial opinion that Mr. Tizyakov could be ill for 15 to 20 days.

Before the coup, Mr. Tizyakov headed an association of state factories in what was then the Soviet Union and was a member of the self-proclaimed "State Committee for the State of Emergency" that seized power from Mikhail Gorbachev on Aug. 18-21, 1991.

The other defendants include some of the most powerful men of the old regime: Former KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov, Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov, Soviet parliament leader Anatoly Lukyanov, and Vice President Gennady Yanayev.

They are accused of placing Mikhail Gorbachev under house arrest and declaring emergency rule in an attempt to preserve the Soviet Union under a hardline Communist rule. Ironically, the failed coup accelerated the country's breakup.

If the defendants are found guilty, they could face the death penalty. If they are acquitted, the small but vociferous minority of loyal Communists left in Russia will take heart.

As he entered the courthouse Friday, Mr. Yanayev called the proceedings a "political trial" against President Boris Yeltsin's opponents. "History will vindicate us," he said.

A crowd of about 30 die-hard Communists, mainly elderly people, cheered the defendants outside the heavily-guarded courthouse in central Moscow. Some of the protesters sang revolutionary songs.

## Yeltsin moves against Rutskoi; vows vote change

MOSCOW (AP) — Anxious about his grip on power, Boris Yeltsin said he would change the rules of Russia's leadership referendum in his favour and strip his rebellious vice president of some influence and privileges.

The Russians Congress, trying to reduce Yeltsin's chance of winning an April 25 vote of confidence in his power and policies, has ordered that a majority of the 106 million registered voters is necessary to win.

That would be difficult for Mr. Yeltsin. When he was elected president in June 1991, he won with more than 60 per cent of the votes cast — but that was only about 43 per cent of eligible voters.

Mr. Yeltsin said Thursday that he would issue a decree after April 20 easing the number of votes needed to win. He did not say Mr. Yeltsin indicated he would ignore its ruling.

The president also said he would take away control over agricultural from Vice President Alexander Rutskoi, his one-time ally. A Rutskoi aide said the vice president also would lose his special car, personal doctor and some of his bodyguards.

The moves by Mr. Yeltsin could be an attempt to drive Mr. Rutskoi from office. Mr. Rutskoi did not respond directly to Mr. Yeltsin's statement, but last month he said he would not be forced to resign.

In a newspaper article, Mr. Rutskoi blamed "demagogic politicians" for the abysmal state of farming in Russia.

If defeated in the nationwide ballot, Mr. Yeltsin could be severely weakened and even forced from office, leaving Mr. Rutskoi in charge.

Mr. Rutskoi, a former pro-reform Communist who defended the presidential headquarters during the attempted hardline coup in 1991, has become an opponent of Mr. Yeltsin and has repeatedly tried to undercut his political and economic reforms.

Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Rutskoi's terms expire in 1996, but earlier elections are possible if voters support that idea in the referendum. Mr. Rutskoi cannot be fired by Mr. Yeltsin.

At a meeting with representatives of democratic groups, Mr. Yeltsin said he would take the agriculture portfolio away from Mr. Rutskoi before the end of the week, the Interfax News Agency said.

Writing in the opposition newspaper Pravda, Mr. Rutskoi avoided criticising Mr. Yeltsin directly. Instead, he blamed the pricing, credit, tax and investment policies of the government for putting farming "in the humiliating position of being bankrupt."

The article was a veritable report card — filled with F's — on Russia's agricultural system.

Mr. Rutskoi, who claimed his own reform ideas were ignored, said 40 per cent to 60 per cent of farm produce is lost during harvesting, drying and storage — twice as much food than is imported. Modern farm equipment is in short supply, state construction 130 food factories was halted last year and output of meat, cheese and cereals declined more than 20 per cent, he said.

Mr. Yeltsin gave Mr. Rutskoi the tough job of managing Russian agriculture in February 1992, perhaps to discredit him. Kremlin leaders have a tradition of naming rivals to that job.

The moves against Mr. Rutskoi came while Mr. Yeltsin campaigned intensively for support in his power struggle with hardline lawmakers.

Mr. Yeltsin elevated a moderate ally, Oleg Lobov, to first deputy prime minister. And he signed a decree increasing government aid to people suffering from the effects of the explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in 1986.

The president got a boost from the seven wealthiest industrial nations, which approved a new \$28.4 billion aid package to help Russia's economic reforms. The group of seven made clear they were acting in hopes of improving Mr. Yeltsin's standing in Russia.

Mr. Yeltsin, declaring himself "a nationalist of Russia," has taken a hardline approach on the deployment of Russian troops stationed in other former Soviet republics.

Troops in the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

would not be withdrawn "until the rights of Russian-speaking communities are guaranteed", while Russian Armed Forces in the western Georgian Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia "will not be withdrawn until Georgia withdraws its own troops", he told a public meeting here Thursday.

"I am a nationalist of Russia. I am for strong power and integration into the world community," the Interfax News Agency reported him as saying.

Moscow has agreed to withdraw its troops from Lithuania by the end of August 1993, but Latvia and Estonia have yet to receive any firm undertaking on the removal of the last remaining troops of the former Red Army from their territory.

Georgia has accused the Russia army of aiding Abkhazian separatists in its Western region bordering the Black Sea, a charge Moscow has denied.

"For every shell fired at our troops we will reply with two shells," Mr. Yeltsin said.

Similar threats of reprisals have been made by Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev.

Relations between Moscow and Tbilisi have plummeted over the conflict in Abkhazia, whose capital Sukhumi has come under aerial bombardment, with dozens of casualties. Tbilisi has charged that the planes are piloted by Russian army personnel.

## COLUMN 1000000

### Oxford debates — if you've got it, should you flaunt it?

LONDON (R) — Russia's Miss World is to help Oxford University's scholars resolve an ancient problem — should a woman who has got it, flaunt it? Julia Kurochkina will join former supermodel Jerry Hall to debate beauty and brains at the ancient university in June. "The motion will be about exploitation of your assets — brains, brawn and beauty," Katherine Wade, president of the university's Union Student Body, told Today newspaper Friday. The debate is on June 17. Ms. Kurochkina, 18, who bore title last December when Ms. Hall, married to rock singer Mick Jagger, was one of the judges. The first Russian to become Miss World, Ms. Kurochkina is a student at the Moscow Economics Institute. Ms. Hall will put the case for making the most of beauty, supported by Miss World. Feminist writer Yvonne Roberts will speak against the resolution.

### 'Dracula' terrorises Indonesian village

JAKARTA (R) — At least 50 families in a West Java village are living in fear of a Dracula-like visitation after finding blood-stained marks on their doors, Indonesia's daily Jakarta newspaper reported Friday. No fangs have yet sunk into anyone's neck in the village of Cimooe and police say the blood comes from chickens. The police are looking for three men but suspect them of being pranksters rather than visitors from the other side of the grave.

### Drunk driving artist condemned to paint for road safety

AVIGNON, France (AFP) — A French judge has wiped the slate clean for an artist sentenced on a drunk driving charge after the painter presented the court with a canvas representing road safety, legal sources said. Francois Welcomme, 48, had been slapped with a stiff fine and a suspended prison sentence and had his driver's license revoked two months ago after his arrest on New Year's Day for driving with 1.56 grams of alcohol in his blood. The judge said, however, that he would scrap the sentence if Welcomme presented the local headquarters of the Road Safety Department with a painting. "I recalled that some artists seek inspiration in alcohol," the judge explained, "and I decided to give the painter a chance."

### Top German chef ordered to shut restaurant

MUNICH (R) — One of Germany's top chefs received a two-year suspended jail sentence and was ordered to close his celebrated restaurant after being found guilty of buying cocaine, regional officials said. Despite Munich's culinary scene rallying to his support, Eckart Witzmann lost the licence for his Aubergine Restaurant — one of only three in Germany to be awarded three Michelin Stars for outstanding cuisine. Around 90 Munich chefs ran a half-page advertisement in a local newspaper to support Mr. Witzmann, when he went on trial last month.

### Belgian city battles rat invasion

BRUSSELS (R) — The Belgian city of Charleroi is battling a plague of rats which invaded the streets after being flushed from the sewers by major building works. The city's environment chief Lucien Cariat said the rodents emerged near Charleroi's main railway station after old concrete walls were knocked down during work to build a bridge across the River Sambre. He said hundreds of rats were infesting the streets each evening, attracted by food thrown from pigpens. Charleroi had a similar rat problem 15 years ago, he added.

### Actress who played Diana bans nude pictures

LONDON (R) — The actress who played Princess Diana in a movie about her marriage to the heir to Britain's throne, Prince Charles, said she had banned nude publicity pictures of herself to avoid royal embarrassment. Serena Scott Thomas blocked the publication of stills from a television film in which she appears as a prostitute wearing nothing but a hat. She made the movie before winning the star role in the film of the book Diana: Her True Story.

### WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Italians to vote in reform referendums

ROME (AFP) — Some 47 million Italian voters will head to the polls Sunday and Monday to decide the fate of eight political reform referendums which, if adopted, are likely to transform the country's political landscape. The referendum vote will close Monday at 1200 GMT and is open to any citizen more than 18 years old. It is being held amid an explosive corruption scandal that has implicated numerous top politicians and businessmen. Recent opinion polls indicate that voters, reflecting a profound popular desire for change, will likely approve all eight questions that include the introduction of a majority voting system for the upper house of parliament and the abolition of public funding of political parties. The current referendums represent the first time Italians have to decide on eight questions at once. If approved, the referendums will then be adopted into law.

#### Pakistan army chief cancels U.S. visit

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's chief of army staff cancelled a visit next week to the United States amid a mounting political crisis that could topple the government of reformist Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, officials said Friday. "The visit will take place at a more congenial time," an army spokesman said by telephone. General Abdul Waheed, appointed to the powerful post of chief of army staff after the death of his predecessor in January, had been due to pay a 10-day visit to the United States starting Monday. Gen. Waheed earlier this week postponed a scheduled visit to France that had been due to begin last Thursday. Gen. Waheed's last-minute cancellations were prompted by the political crisis at home, diplomats said. His trip was scheduled at a crucial time in U.S.-Pakistan ties after Washington in January added Pakistan to a watch list of countries allegedly sponsoring terrorism.

#### Fire ravages Nigeria's defence HQ

LAGOS (R) — Most of Nigeria's defence headquarters in central Lagos was a charred wreck Friday after fire fanned by wind swept through the 25-storey building. Army spokesman Colonel Fred Chijuka said nobody was injured in the fire and two people trapped on an upper floor had been rescued. "Nobody was injured, not one. Two were trapped on the 18th floor but we got them out," he said. Fire-fighters struggled to extinguish remnants of the blaze 14 hours after it started. "This is a national disaster," a distraught army officer told reporters outside the building cordoned off by armed soldiers as acrid smoke billowed over Nigeria's biggest city. By morning, most of the crackling flames that had engulfed the top 20 floors had gone, leaving much of the building's green and white facade blackened and charred.

#### New Kashmir violence claims 19 lives

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Indian army troops attacked by Muslim militants retaliated with gunfire in two Kashmir towns, killing at least six civilians, as an upsurge of violence left 13 others dead elsewhere in the troubled valley. Three civilians were killed and nine injured last Thursday in shooting by troops targeted by grenade attacks by militants in Badgam, central Kashmir, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Friday. Three civilians and a militant were killed and two injured in a similar incident in Sopore, north Kashmir, the agency said. The 13 other victims of violence Thursday evening and Friday included nine suspected Muslim militants killed in two gun battles with paramilitary forces, it said. The remaining four were civilians killed by militants.

#### 'Torture is widespread in China'

LONDON (AP) — Amnesty International said Friday that torture is systematic in China and far more widespread than 10 years ago despite claims by the government that it has taken effective measures to stop it. "The information received by Amnesty International in recent years suggests that torture has become endemic in many places of detention," it said in a report.